

British voters flee Conservatives

LONDON (R) — Britain's ruling Conservative Party suffered humiliation on Friday after voters, determined to take revenge on their deeply unpopular Prime Minister John Major, inflicted defeat in five parliamentary by-elections. In the most bruising loss for Mr. Major, the centrist Liberal Democrats won the seat of Eastleigh in southern England, relegating the Conservatives to third place. In the 1992 general election, the Conservatives won the seat by 17,700 votes. Opposition parties claimed the results were a devastating indictment of the government, in power since 1979, and increased pressure on Mr. Major to step down or call a general election. Ministers admitted the results were very disappointing. But party chairman Norman Fowler said Mr. Major's job was safe and he would lead the party into the next election, due by mid-1997. "He (Major) has the mandate for not just the need for any instant policy changes," said Mr. Fowler. I do not see the need for any instant policy changes," Mr. Fowler said. Mr. Major's April, U-turns on key elements of government policy, the after-effects of a two-year recession and a series of headline-grabbing scandals involving senior Conservatives.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي.

BEIRUT

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ROYAL JORDANIAN
YOUR WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Volume 18 Number 5632

AMMAN SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 1994, MUHARRAM 2, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Ibrahimi pursues Yemen peace bid unfazed by war

Combined agency despatches

UNDAUNTED by the unremitting warfare, veteran U.N. peace broker Lakhdar Ibrahimi Friday continued his efforts to mediate an end to Yemen's five-week-old civil war.

Radio Sanaa said he left the northern Yemeni capital "disappointed" by violations of the ceasefire he negotiated the previous day between northern government forces and the southern separatists.

However, Mr. Ibrahimi's spokesman said the man who negotiated an end to Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war was unfazed by the persistent fighting.

Spokesman Nejib Friji said that in the Lebanese conflict Mr. Ibrahimi, a former Algerian foreign minister, "witnessed dozens of violations of ceasefires but that didn't prevent his mission from being... most successful."

Yemen erupted into war on May 4 after a nine-month power struggle between President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh crippled the country.

Northern Yemeni forces backed by heavy armour on Friday tried to punch through defence lines around Aden, meeting a barrage of shellfire from the city's southern defenders.

The black smoke from incoming northern rounds rose over shantytowns 10 kilometres northwest of Aden outskirts, where the northern army is trying to seize control of power and water supply lines from heavily outnumbered defenders.

A northern official source said earlier in Sanaa that the northern forces were holding to the ceasefire pledge made for Thursday night despite what he called southern violations.

The ceasefire, the second to be issued in a week, was made allowing talks between President Ali Saleh and Mr. Ibrahimi.

Both sides accused each other of violating the ceasefire. During his two-day visit, Mr. Ibrahimi conferred separately with the U.S. and French ambassadors and the Russian charge d'affaires at their request. He also met the ambassadors of Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Libya, the U.N. spokesman said. Mr. Ibrahimi also held talks with representatives of 22 political parties in Sanaa and with parliament members.

Sanaa radio said parliament speaker Sheikh Abdullah Ben Al Ahmar informed Mr. Ibrahimi that "all what concerns Yemenis is unity, unity or death."

The radio quoted Mr. Ibrahimi as telling the deputies that the world community was "concerned over what is taking place in Yemen. The (Yemeni) brothers are requested to over-

come their problems themselves."

Mr. Friji would not say when or where Mr. Ibrahimi was meeting southern leaders. "For sure he is going to see all those concerned in the Yemen conflict, but I do not know where and when," Mr. Friji said.

Diplomatic sources in Sanaa said Mr. Ibrahimi's talks with southern leaders would likely take place in a Gulf Arab state, probably the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. Ibrahimi said he would see all parties "and we will use the same language and present the same demands," Sanaa Radio said.

He said he would continue his efforts for dialogue.

Mr. Ibrahimi's mission is part of a June 1 U.N. Security Council resolution, which calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities and an arms embargo of the belligerents.

He flew to Jordan and then would go to Saudi Arabia, where he was to meet in Jeddah with Saudi officials about Yemen's conflict, said Mr. Friji.

Mr. Ibrahimi's visit to Saudi Arabia reflected his apparent desire to involve Yemen's Arab neighbours in a solution to the conflict wracking the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula.

Although the fighting has (Continued on page 5)



Southern militiamen prepare ammunition under a shelter on the front line of Saba on Friday (AFP photo)

Jordan has 'clear vision' to boost ties with Syria, will not hurry into blocs

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has a "clear vision" for raising the level of economic and political coordination with Syria but pragmatism, not emotions, will define any steps the Kingdom will take in that direction, political sources have said.

But they cautioned against over-optimism, encouraged by some news reports, that the two countries and Lebanon are about to forge an economic alliance similar to the defunct Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) that grouped the Kingdom, Iraq, Egypt and Yemen.

News reports said that Syria and Jordan were planning to deliberate the creation of the said alliance during a meeting of the joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee scheduled for Saturday. But informed sources confirmed that no coherent steps have been taken towards forming the grouping.

The Syrian delegation will be headed by Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zoubi and will

include Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa.

However, it was not certain on Friday whether the meeting would be held as scheduled on Saturday. Syria had not confirmed its delegation's arrival in Amman on Saturday, sources said.

Parliamentary sources said the idea of closer cooperation among Amman, Beirut and Damascus was informally brought up by lawmakers in their talks with Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri during his visit to Jordan in May. They said Mr. Berri communicated his talks with the Jordanian deputies to Foreign Minister Faris Bouez who raised the subject when he visited the Kingdom last month.

Other sources said Syria, which does not have an ambassador in Amman, had floated the proposal for the alliance to counter the negative impact on the economies of the three countries of the Palestinian-

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Meeting postponed

MINISTER of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan announced late Friday that a meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee scheduled to open here today has been postponed to a later date.

The minister, who made the announcement in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said: "Our brethren in Syria have expressed their wish to postpone the meeting."

The minister said Jordan was "keen on maintaining coordination at the highest level with Syria based on the deep strategic relations which bind the two countries and which His Majesty King Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad are keen to strengthen."

The Paris meeting was chaired by Jan Egelund, state secretary of the Norwegian foreign ministry.

The ad hoc liaison committee was formed by the donor countries after the donor conference in Washington on Oct. 1 pledged \$2.4 billion over a period of five years. Thursday's meeting is the second to be held by the committee, which first met Nov. 5.

Permanent members of the donor committee include the

U.N. envoy, Yemeni minister arrive here

AMMAN (J.T.) — United Nations (U.N.) envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi arrived here Friday en route to Saudi Arabia to hold talks with southern Yemeni officials on ending the five-week-old Yemeni civil war.

Mr. Ibrahimi, a special envoy of Secretary General Boutros Ghali, said in an arrival statement that his talks with Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh in Sanaa were good.

He added that Yemeni officials in Sanaa had their own views on the resumption of dialogue with Aden and so had the southern Yemeni leaders.

He stressed that the ceasefire announced in Yemen after the adoption of U.N. Security Council Resolution 924 on the Yemeni crisis did not hold.

Mr. Ibrahimi said he will continue his endeavours to find a peaceful settlement to the

Yemeni crisis, by bringing together the Yemeni parties to the negotiations table to settle their differences.

"Fighting does not solve the problem, that dialogue is the best way to end the Yemeni crisis," Mr. Ibrahimi said, adding that the international community was ready to contribute towards ending the Yemeni crisis by peaceful means.

Mr. Ibrahimi was received upon arrival by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan, the Yemeni and Saudi charge d'affaires in Amman and the U.N. resident representative in Amman.

Meanwhile Yemeni Minister of Justice Abdullah Ahmad Ghanem also arrived in Amman carrying a message to His Majesty King Hussein from

(Continued on page 5)

IAEA halts N. Korea aid, sanction bid gains speed

VIENNA (Agencies) — The United Nations' nuclear watchdog agency voted Friday to suspend technical aid to North Korea for barring full inspections of its nuclear facilities.

Though limited in scope, the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) cutoff is the first formal sanctions against North Korea, for what many nations believe is a policy to hide a nuclear weapons programme.

China, which holds a seat on the IAEA's board of governors, abstained in the 28-1 vote, the agency announced following the closed-door meeting. Also abstaining were Lebanon, India and Syria. Libya cast the lone "no" vote.

By abstaining, China, one of communist North Korea's few allies, did not reveal what it might do later when the U.N. Security Council takes up the

issue of much broader economic sanctions.

"I will not venture guesses as to where we go from here," said Hans Blix, director general of the IAEA. "It appears, however, that the DPRK (North Korea) has deliberately elected to maintain uncertainty and ambiguity" about its nuclear programme.

The IAEA board approved a resolution suspending all non-medical technical aid to North Korea. Such aid involved mostly training and nuclear-related programmes in industry and agriculture.

The assistance is worth only about \$250,000 a year. But cutting it was the strongest measure the agency could take on its own.

The IAEA resolution also strongly deplored North

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'No economic project with Israel until fundamental issues solved'

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan will not implement projects with Israel except within a multilateral framework and after the Arab countries decide to lift the Arab boycott against Israel, a senior Jordanian official has said.

Minister of Information Jawad Al Anani also said Jordan would sign a final peace agreement with Israel only after the issues of Palestinian refugees is resolved and the future status of Jerusalem is determined "to our satisfaction."

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Anani described as multilateral the principles that Jordan and Israel reached during the trilateral talks in Washington last week concerning development projects in the Jordan Valley.

"There are no joint economic projects between Jordan and Israel," Dr. Anani, who kept close contact with the recent Washington talks, said. "These are multilateral projects."

In their Washington talks, the two sides agreed on a comprehensive development project in the Jordan Valley, building a canal linking the Red Sea and Dead Sea and constructing a road from Aqaba through Eilat in Israel to Taba in Egypt.

"It's too early to talk about the road and the canal, especially that they will take years of feasibility studies," said Dr. Anani, a prominent economist.

The minister said the two sides had agreed to study these projects in the future, but that their implementation will only take place within the framework of a final peace agreement with Israel.

Dr. Anani added that joint Jordanian-Israeli economic projects would only take place pending the Arab countries' decision on whether to lift their boycott against Israel.

"We cannot begin with the joint economic projects until we see what happens with the Arab boycott against Israel," Dr. Anani said.

He reiterated that the Kingdom would not enter negotiations on the economic issues until the borders with Israel were agreed upon according to the British mandate boundaries drawn between Transjordan and Palestine in 1922.

Jordan and Israel agreed in Washington to form a joint commission which would begin drawing these borders according to the mandate boundaries next month in Jordan and Israel.

The Kingdom, referring to the 1922 boundaries, maintains that Israel has occupied a total of 360 square kilometres of its land in the south between 1967

and 1969, and two square kilometres in the north, which it intends to take back when the demarcation line is drawn up.

Dr. Anani, however, said that Jordan will not negotiate with Israel its borders with the West Bank since it did not consider these territories as Israel's.

"We will draw our borders with the West Bank not with the Israelis, but with hopefully the Palestinian state," he said.

The minister stressed that the borders were only part of a peace agreement, adding that the Kingdom had to know the status of Jerusalem and Palestinian refugees before signing.

"We will not sign a peace agreement with Israel until the issues of refugees and Jerusalem are dealt with," Dr. Anani said. "There cannot be peace without Jerusalem and refugees."

He added that although Jerusalem was not in the geographical jurisdiction of Jordan to negotiate, the Kingdom had to have a clear idea of the future status of the Holy City.

While Israel claims Jerusalem as its "undivided eternal capital," the Palestinians consider East Jerusalem as the future capital of the Palestinian state, and Jordan insists that Jerusalem is an issue that concerns all Arabs, Muslims and

(Continued on page 5)

PLO gets \$42m; Israel bars Jerusalem as autonomy base

PARIS (Agencies) — The Palestinians won limited immediate aid from international donors on Friday to pay their new police force and start up self-government in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, with a pledge of more cash soon.

Israel, meanwhile, said it had prevented Jerusalem from being named as the seat of the Palestinian Council for Economic Development and Reconstruction, as proclaimed by a May 14 Palestinian decree.

Palestinian delegation head Nabil Shaath told Reuters during a break in the two-day meeting that donors had agreed to pay \$42 million immediately into a fund to meet the urgent costs of running the new Palestinian National Authority.

"Of course we did not cover all our requirements but you can't get everything you want at one go. We were looking for \$70 million, but that's a good

batting average," Dr. Shaath said.

Several countries promised to top up their contributions at another meeting in Paris on July 11, he said.

The promised aid "should be received tomorrow, very soon," said Dr. Shaath. "I am satisfied, I think the meeting has made significant progress towards making peace work on the ground."

The \$42 million will help cover a projected 1994 deficit of \$77 million as Palestinian leaders try to finance the rapidly growing police force and establish a civil service in Gaza and Jericho.

The announcement came at the close of a two-day meeting of the ad hoc liaison committee, coordinated by the Norwegian government.

Donor nations have balked at making good on \$2.4 billion in pledges for Palestinian self-rule before seeing specific

plans on how the money would be spent. This year, the group was expected to provide \$675 million, but only a small fraction has materialised.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat became so irked at the slow pace of disbursement that he threatened last week to delay his return to Palestinian lands unless the process was speeded up.

The Paris meeting was chaired by Jan Egelund, state secretary of the Norwegian foreign ministry.

The ad hoc liaison committee was formed by the donor countries after the donor conference in Washington on Oct. 1 pledged \$2.4 billion over a period of five years. Thursday's meeting is the second to be held by the committee, which first met Nov. 5.

Permanent members of the donor committee include the

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287 Palestinians freed, but confined to Jericho

JERICHO (Agencies) — Israel finally freed 287 Palestinian prisoners on Friday after they agreed to stay in this self-rule enclave for 48 hours while negotiations go on over their fate.

Scores of the freed men embraced waiting relatives while others lined up by a public telephone to call home.

Israel tried to hand over the men to the Palestinian police in Jericho on Thursday to ensure they serve out their sentences in the enclave, in line with the May 5 autonomy agreement.

The prisoners — 128 of whom were sentenced to life — demanded to be allowed to go to their homes across the West Bank, not to be confined to Jericho, and with police support refused to enter the town.

Five were Jericho residents who later went home.

Faisal Hussein, the leading Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) figure on the Israeli-occupied West Bank,

turned out in the middle of the night to try to resolve the dispute.

The stand-off was settled before dawn — at least for the next 48 hours — after the prisoners spent the night in buses outside the town, Palestinian police spokesman Mohammad Shaker said.

But, there was confusion over how long they would have to stay here.

"The prison authorities told us we would go home after three months," said Mahmoud Fousseini, 22, jailed for life after killing a Palestinian "collaborator."

The reason for the three-month delay is apparently because negotiations on spreading autonomy to the rest of the West Bank are due to begin by then.

Prisoners with shorter prison sentences carried signed documents instructing them to go to

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PLO indecision, overlapping of roles delay accord with Jordan

From Lamis K. Andoni
In Tunis

A DELAY IN SIGNING or at least further discussions of an economic cooperation "plan of action" agreement reached with Jordan last month is due to lack of a final leadership decision, internal differences and a state of uncertainty that seem to dominate the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), according to senior PLO officials.

The delay, which PLO officials seem to find no specific explanation for, however, does not reflect any fundamental differences inside the leadership over the urgent need for close and spe-

cial cooperation with Jordan but mainly stems from absence of clarity on the form of cooperation and mainly the framework of the political relationship between the two sides.

Therefore, all agreements reached so far with Jordan are subject to delays, differences and last-minute modifications.

The bottom line of reservations every time any kind of agreement is reached with Jordan remains concerns among some PLO officials that an active Jordanian economic role in the West Bank will practically enhance the Kingdom's historic political role there.

However, after the signing

of the political and economic agreements with Israel, PLO officials say they realise that the PLO will have to decide whether to further Israeli control of the West Bank and Gaza Strip or further integrate with Jordan. Although there is a consensus on the need for economic integration with Jordan, there are disagreements on the extent and the shape of Jordan's role in the monetary and economy of the future Palestinian entity.

There is unanimous support in Tunis for the adoption of the Jordanian dinar as the official payment currency. Most concede that the alternative is to consolidate Israeli domination through

the Israeli shekel. Consequently PLO officials concede that measures should be implemented to guarantee the stability of the dinar. However, there are reservations over the political implications of two clauses in the recent draft agreement, which they say should be clarified with Jordan.

The two issues involve a tentative agreement to set up a joint monetary committee entrusted with supervising all banks and financial institutions in the West Bank and Gaza and a Jordanian suggestion that the Palestinian authority opens a credit account at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) mainly to cover payments for Jordanian exports

to the Palestinian autonomy areas.

PLO officials who are said to include the head of the PLO foreign department Farouk Kaddoumi do not oppose the idea of the joint committee, but want to ensure that it will not infringe upon the functions of a Palestinian monetary authority once it is established.

According to a senior Jordanian official source, however, the committee's main role is of a coordinating nature since all banks will be dealing with the Jordanian dinar and that the Jordanian supervisory role will diminish as the Palestinian authority consolidates its hold and is extended to the rest of the

West Bank.

Ahmad Qouriea (Abu Alaa), the Palestinian minister for economic cooperation, dismissed reports of Jordan-PLO differences over the role of the committee.

"This committee is crucial to the interests of both sides and to safeguard people's interests and deposits," Abu Alaa said in an interview with the Jordan Times.

The committee, he said, is particularly important for the Palestinian authority to ensure professional monitoring and supervision of banks and monetary transactions, especially pending the setting up of a Palestinian monetary authority.

"This is not a political com-

mittee, but a highly specialised technical committee to prevent chaos and confusion," Abu Alaa said.

Mr. Kaddoumi, who will officially sign the agreement once a decision is made in Tunis, indicated that existing reservations should not and will not obstruct cooperation with Jordan.

"Economic cooperation with Jordan is crucial for both sides. Consequently, all obstacles should be removed to facilitate and consolidate cooperation with Jordan," Mr. Kaddoumi said.

Mr. Kaddoumi said, however, that it was understood that Jordan will assume a major role, especially in the preliminary stages, but that

the task of the committee should be clearly defined.

"There is no doubt that in the preliminary stages our Jordanian brothers should participate actively (in coordinating monetary supervision)... thus the joint committee will be a provisional one pending the establishment of a Palestinian central bank," he said.

Mr. Kaddoumi did not give any reasons for the delay, implying that a decision has not been taken yet on when talks on issue will be resumed with Jordan.

Mr. Abu Alaa said he saw no reason whatsoever for the procrastination and that

(Continued on page 5)

Full text of Jordan-Israel agreement to start talks

Agence France Presse

AMMAN — Here is the full text of three documents signed Tuesday by Israel and Jordan at bilateral talks in Washington, obtained by AFP here.

The documents were signed by the head of the Israeli negotiating team, Eliakim Rubinstein, and his Jordanian counterpart, Fayez Tarawneh following two days of talks.

The documents make up a sub-agenda, outlining in detail issues set out in the joint Israel-Jordan common agenda for peace talks agreed by the two sides on Sept. 14, 1994 in Washington.

The sub-agenda, which lays down joint Israeli-Jordanian projects, will form the basis for further bilateral talks which are expected to take place next month in either Israel or Jordan.

The Middle East peace process The bilateral peace negotiations The Jordan-Israel track Common sub-agenda

Group A: Water, Energy and the Environment

In their pursuit of achieving the goal of the Jordan-Israel track of negotiations, Jordan and Israel have identified the components of their bilateral negotiations and have listed them under section B of the common agenda. Item B (7) addresses the phasing of the discussion, agreement and implementation of the agenda items including appropriate mechanisms for negotiations in specific fields. It is understood the two parties shall cooperate to achieve the goal.

Resolution of the issues of the conflict is to result in mitigation of the adverse impacts and damages resulting from the conflict.

Items of this sub-agenda listed hereunder respond to the intent of detailed discussions over the various issues in the subjects of water, energy, the environment and the Jordan Rift Valley, and provide practical steps to fulfil the objectives of items B (3), B (6)-A and B (7) of the common agenda.

I Surface water basins

A: Negotiation of mutual recognition of the rightful water allocations of the two sides in Jordan River and Yarmouk River waters with mutually acceptable quality.

Securing the unimpeded flow of the mutually recognised rightful allocations of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Israel respectively in Jordan and Yarmouk River waters with the above agreed quality through agreed conveyance systems.

B — Restoration of water quality in the Jordan River below lake Tiberias to reasonably usable standards.

C — Protection of water quality.

II Shared groundwater aquifers

A — Renewable fresh water aquifers — southern area between the Dead Sea and the Red Sea.

B — Fossil aquifers — area between the Dead Sea and the Red Sea.

C — Protection of water quality of both.

III Alleviation of water shortage

A — Development of water resources.

B — Municipal water shortages.

C — Irrigation water shortages.

IV — Potentials of future bilateral cooperation, within a regional context where appropriate.

A — General

1. Nature protection, natural resources and biodiversity.
2. Air quality control, including general standards, criteria and all types of man-made hazardous radiation, fumes and gases.
3. Marine environment and coastal resources management.
4. Waste management including hazardous wastes.
5. Pest control.
6. Abatement and control of hazards to the environment.
7. Desertification.
8. Public awareness and environmental education.
9. Environmental management tools.
10. Natural disasters.
11. Indigenous energy resources development.
12. Energy generation, conventional and non-conventional, water needs and environmental considerations.
13. Electricity grid connection and oil pipelines.
14. Regional charters.

B — Jordan Rift Valley

1. Red Sea-Dead Sea canal.
2. Dead Sea chemical industries.
3. Management of water basins.
4. Development of geothermal resources.
5. Mining and mineral resources exploitation.
6. Industrial export processing zones.
7. Transportation facilities and infrastructures.
8. Agricultural development and operations.
9. Archeology and tourism.
10. Inter-disciplinary activities in water, environment and energy.

The Jordan Israel common sub-agenda

Security

In their pursuit of achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace, and in fulfillment of the principle of respect for the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the states in the region Jordan and Israel, in their negotiations leading to a treaty of peace as stipulated in article C of the common agenda, have identified the components of their negotiations and have listed them under the section on security, based on Article B (2) of the common agenda, as follows:

1. The article "refraining from actions or activities by either side that may adversely affect the security of the other or may prejudice the final outcome of the negotiations," refers to the period throughout the negotiations leading to a peace treaty, as well as to the future relations between the parties under the treaty. It is agreed that negotiations should encompass a comprehensive range of security issues and should develop principles and means to deal with such issues.

2. Mutually agreed upon security arrangements.

(i) Discussion on security arrangements that can be implemented between the two states, including along the defined international boundary between Jordan and Israel based on article B (5) of the common agenda.

(ii) Implementation mechanisms within a defined time frame will be agreed upon.

3. Threats to security resulting from all kinds of terrorism.

In fulfillment of the principle of "non-intervention or interference in internal affairs" and to preserve the stability of the peaceful relations, and security arrangements on the international boundary between Jordan and Israel, the following procedure is agreed:

(i) Identification of all possible terrorism threats, including cross-border terrorism and subversion.

(ii) Discussions on principles and means to deal with such threats.

4. Security Confidence Building Measures (CBMs)

Respecting and complying with the agreed international boundary between Israel and Jordan, as defined in article B (5) of the common agenda, the following is agreed:

(i) Discussions on military and other CBMs that will strengthen the agreed security arrangements and will promote peaceful relations.

(ii) Discussions on multilateral arms control confidence and security building measures, in the areas of exchange of military information and activities, that have a bilateral application.

(iii) Discussions on possible implementation mechanisms based upon a time frame.

5. Agreement on mutually satisfactory measures will form part of a treaty of peace.

6. Arms control and regional security.

Further to the agreements reached on security arrangements and various CBMs, in areas around the defined international boundary between Jordan and Israel, the parties will develop mechanisms for coordination on issues pertaining to arms control and regional security, in accordance with relevant agreements reached in the multilateral working group on arms control and regional security.

The Jordan-Israel Common Sub-Agenda

Borders and territorial matters

In their pursuit of achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace, and in fulfillment of the principle of respect for the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the states in the region Jordan and Israel, in their negotiations leading to a treaty of peace, as stipulated in Article C of the common agenda, have identified the components of their negotiations on borders and territorial matters, based on article B (5) of the common agenda, as follows:

The parties will achieve the settlement of territorial matters and agreed definitive delimitation and demarcation of the international boundary between Jordan and Israel with reference to the boundary definition under the mandate, without prejudice to the status of any territories that came under Israeli military government control in 1967. Both parties will respect and comply with the above international boundary, preserve the peaceful coexistence along the boundary, creating a living, warm reality for the benefit of the people of both sides.

The following procedure is agreed, and is to be applied in the negotiations to be held in the region.

(A) — Agreement to establish a joint mechanism (a boundary sub-commission of the commission on security, boundaries, water, environment and other related issues), whose objective will be to assist in arriving at a settlement of borders and territorial matters.

(B) — The sub-commission will initially prescribe the modalities of preparing joint maps of the region of the boundary and any additional material, including, as appropriate, a joint survey for this purpose.

The joint maps shall be in English and shall reflect physical features of the areas along the boundaries between the two states.

(C) — The sub-commission will further advise the respective parties on the ways to reach agreement as to the process set forth in article B (5) of the common agenda.

(D) — Once agreement is reached the sub-commission will be responsible for the preparation of the procedures for delimitation and demarcation of the international boundary between Jordan and Israel, and will perform those tasks.

(E) The proposed mechanism will work in close conjunction with the security sub-commission in order to ensure that coordination takes place. This will facilitate more detailed discussions, taking place in parallel, on all issues pertaining to bilateral security arrangements on and in the areas close to the defined international boundary based on article B (5) of the common agenda.

(F) — The negotiations on the mutually satisfactory solutions of the boundary issues will be finalised in a treaty of peace, as stipulated in Article C of the common agenda.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Majority of Israelis do not trust Rabin — poll

TEL AVIV (R) — A majority of Israelis do not trust Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's handling of peace talks with the Palestinians, a poll released on Friday said. The Hanoch Smith Research Centre survey found 54 per cent of Israelis questioned negatively when asked: "To what extent do you trust Yitzhak Rabin's handling of the continuation of negotiations with the Palestinians?" Nineteen per cent said they trusted Mr. Rabin very much, 18 per cent pretty much, 17 per cent not so much, 20 per cent did not trust him, 17 per cent did not trust him at all and nine per cent had no opinion. The telephone poll, conducted on June 5, solicited opinions from 505 Israeli Jews.

'Qadhafi offered Israel to reduce extremism'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi contacted Israel in 1990, offering to reduce his backing for "extremism" if Israel persuaded the United States to ease its sanctions against Libya, an Israeli newspaper reported Thursday. Israel shelved the offer, the Haaretz Daily said. Haaretz quoted a book called "The Big Misses — Political Opportunities and Chances for Peace that Israel Missed," just published by a former secret service agent, Rafi Siton. Colonel Qadhafi made the offer through an Israeli "economic figure," Haaretz quoted Mr. Siton as writing. He was looking for ways to lift sanctions imposed by the United States because he was harbouring suspects in the 1988 explosion of a Pan Am airplane over Lockerbie. Mr. Siton said the economic figure got the information to then-Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who referred it to Israel's secret service, the Mossad. The Mossad shelved it, Mr. Siton said. Mr. Shamir told Israel army radio he did not remember the case. "Muammar Qadhafi is known to be strange, a lot of strange things happen, but I don't remember this," he said.

10,000 to guard Arafat visit

TEL AVIV (AP) — Yasser Arafat will be greeted by an unusually heavy security detail of some 10,000 Israeli police if he tries to visit Jerusalem later this month, Israeli Radio reported Friday. Mr. Arafat is expected after June 15 to visit the self-rule areas of Jericho in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He is also likely to try to visit Jerusalem to pray at Muslim shrines and visit Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters. Israeli right-wingers opposed to peace-making with the PLO are planning massive protests for Mr. Arafat. "We are prepared for all possibilities while he (Arafat) is here, for protests that could occur... I believe we will have to concentrate a lot of forces," police chief Assaf Hefetz told the radio. He did not give figures, but the radio said a force of more than 10,000 would be stationed in the Jerusalem area. It said the size of the force was unprecedented for a visiting diplomat, noting that precincts in the Tel Aviv area and elsewhere would be nearly emptied. Jerusalem's right-wing dominated city council published an advertisement in Friday newspapers urging Israelis to come and demonstrate against Mr. Arafat when he arrives.

'Israeli soldiers tortured animals in Gaza'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli army has opened an inquiry into allegations from a soldier that his comrades tortured animals on the Gaza Strip, the military spokesman said Friday. A young conscript has accused soldiers based at the Jabalya refugee camp of killing a cat he had cared for. He complained to Israel's Let Animals Live society which took up the case with the authorities. Ety Altmann, spokeswoman for the society, said the soldier had related several torture cases including the cat he had rescued. "The other soldiers found him, cut his whiskers and played football with him before electrocuting him," Mr. Altmann said. "Then they tied him to a plastic bag and threw him off an observation post." The soldier charged that officers ignored him. One officer trapped him, smashed it against the wall and skinned it with his penknife, he said. He said he had heard that his unit had a reputation for cruelty toward animals before being posted to Jabalya. "The word was the soldiers caught cats, cut out their eyes and put the eyeballs in jars," Mr. Altmann said. She added that it was not the first report reaching the society "that soldiers used animals for target practice" during exercises. "I understand that combat soldiers need to wind down, but this is a very strange way of doing it," said Ms. Altmann. Gaza military commander General Doron Almog ordered the investigation, the spokesman said.

Lebanese judge accuses 4 of killing U.N. soldier

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's military prosecutor accused four men of killing a U.N. peacekeeper in South Lebanon last week, Beirut's state-owned television station said on Friday. Tel. Liban said Judge Nassir Lahoud ordered a military investigation into the June 3 killing of a Fijian soldier and the wounding of another serving with the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in the southern village of Qana. Judge Lahoud ordered a judge to interrogate the suspects who are in custody. Security sources had said the peacekeepers in Qana were attacked by Hizbollah guerrillas after a fighter was killed in a shoot-out with a Fijian patrol. A Fijian soldier, wounded in the first clash, died four days later from his wound. It was not immediately known if the four suspects were Hizbollah members.

More fires consume Syria's grain fields

DAMASCUS (R) — A huge fire broke out in five Syrian fields in northern Syria and destroyed 8,400 square metres of cereals in the second fire this week in Syria's grain-growing area in the north, officials said on Friday. They said firefighters were called from nearby cities and oil companies operating in the area to help control the fires which raged all day on Thursday. The papers did not say what caused the fire but officials said sparks flying from moving machines caused fires in four grain fields during an intense heat wave earlier this week.

Arafat entry to Jericho to be decided on June 12

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A final decision as to when Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat will enter Jericho and Gaza may be taken by June 12, PLO officials in Tunis told the Jordan Times Friday.

"June 18 is again being floated, but apparently there will be a vote among Tunis-based members of the Palestinian National Authority on Sunday," said a Tunis-based PLO official, who asked to remain anonymous.

"The situation as it stands will be studied and a vote will be taken on when the leadership returns," said the PLO official. "There have been too many dates set and reset. It is utterly confusing."

PLO sources in Amman said in May that Mr. Arafat would not enter Jericho or Gaza before the convening of the conference of Organisation of

African Unity (OAU) in Tunis, set for June 13-15 which will be opened by South African President Nelson Mandela.

"This conference will be really important to President Arafat and he will want to attend it," said Saleh Raafat, the Amman-based representative of FIDA, the first Palestinian political party to be founded in the occupied territories after the Arab-Israeli peace talks began.

But observers in Tunis believe that Mr. Arafat's decision when to go to Jericho and Gaza will largely depend on aid given him by World Bank officials meeting with him in Paris.

The PLO chairman has warned that he would not go to Jericho and Gaza before promised financing for the rebuilding of Palestinian infrastructure is given to the PLO. European and other donor countries have said that they would need a system of accountability on how the money was spent.

Arafat is going to Jericho, but when?

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(AFP) — Arafat fever is soaring ever higher as the expected date of Palestinian leader's triumphant entry into Jericho nears, only to bring a fresh crop of predictions further delaying his return.

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, a confidant of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, issued the latest clarification.

"Before the 19th of June," Mr. Freij declared Friday. And he should know, he is after all "minister" for tourism in the Palestinian National Authority.

West Bank PLO leader Faisal Husseini had his own estimate of the "second part of June."

At the end of May, everyone agreed it would be early June, well mid-June. June 15 to be precise, said Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal. However, do not hold your breath because they will not be the first, probably not even the

last, to be proved wrong. Israeli and Palestinian leaders have confidently announced the forthcoming programme over and over again since they signed the declaration of principles for autonomy on Sept. 13.

October, November, December, January... June and he's still coming soon.

Mr. Arafat even threw a spanner in the works himself this week, warning that he would not be going anywhere unless donor countries stumped up a substantial amount of the cash they promised for self-rule.

"How can I enter my country when the money situation is terrible. I have to have something in hand to lift the burden off my struggling people," Mr. Arafat moaned.

Some voices questioned such tactics. After a life-time devoted to the fight to return home, surely Mr. Arafat should at least pay a fleeting visit now the gates are wide open.

A strong rumour spread that he did not want his big day overshadowed by World Cup football so it was either before June 17 or late July.

Kamal Mahmoud, a Jericho taxi driver, urged "the old man" to get a move on.

"Arafat shouldn't delay his arrival too long because we need to get things straightened out," he said.

"He must come to see everything on the ground, he is needed here."

Grocer Mahmoud Abu Al Hawa added: "We are used to changes in his schedules."

"Maybe Arafat is delaying for security reasons. I am sure he will just the international aid. It's just political talk that he is waiting for the funds."

Abdul Nasser Hussein, 21, a prisoner released Friday, predicted a huge turnout. "All the Palestinian people will come to see him."

But if Mr. Arafat delays much more he might even be dead, if certain Israelis have their way.

A former chief rabbi of Israel is spearheading calls to murder the chairman, claiming it is a religious duty for any self-respecting Jew.

"To kill Arafat is a religious commandment for everyone and for that it is not necessary to put him on trial," Rabbi Shlomo Goren said, accusing him of "responsibility for the death of hundreds of Israelis."

Former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon admitted regretting that Mr. Arafat had not been killed when Israeli troops had him in their sights after entering Beirut during the 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Far-right wing parliamentarian Hana Porat of the National Religious Party says he wants to put a bullet through Mr. Arafat's head.

Israeli police are taking no chances. Israel Radio reported plans to deploy 10,000 police — more than half the national force — in Jerusalem if Mr. Arafat is given the green light to visit the Holy City.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO	
17:00	Le Monde Sans Maria
18:00	Dossier De La Semaine
18:30	News in French
18:45	Ushuaia
19:00	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air
21:00	The Campbell
21:30	News in English
22:00	Feature Film: "Eye Witness to Murder"

PRAYER TIMES

03:59	Fajr
05:25	(Sunrise) Duha
12:35	Dhuhr
16:15	'Asr
19:45	Maghrib
21:58	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifich, Tel. 810740	Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 634590	Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 67745
De La Salle Church, Tel. 661757	Terrace Church, Tel. 623366
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 623541	

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	Armenian International Church Tel. 625256
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328	German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932	Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures will rise slightly becoming around average with winds northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28, Aqaba 33 Humidity readings:

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

Amman 32 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Maqbool Halasa	819220
Dr. Jamil Maraga	776149
Dr. Mohammad Al Izah	752971
Dr. Shatawa Abo Zayed	757962
First pharmacy	661912
Perdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asrama pharmacy	637025
Nairokh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	646945
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	647662
Najib pharmacy	847632

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Dr. Maqbool Halasa	819220
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Nairokh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	646945
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	647662
Najib pharmacy	847632

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	
Rescue:	
Civil Defence Emergency	637111
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Jabal Amman Municipality	843402
Malhas, J. Amman	896390
Palestine, Shmeisani	661714
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Musasher Hospital	667227
The Islamic, Abdali	666273
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664166
Italian, Al-Mushajra	777103
Al-Basir, J. Asrafiah	775112
Army, Marka	891615
Queen Alia Hospital	6224050
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)83323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)80260
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)86732
Al-Hikmah Modern Hospital	(09)90990
IBRAHIM:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)75555

HOSPITALS

Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	6442816
Akhleh Maternity, J. Amn	6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity	843402
Malhas, J. Amman	896390
Palestine, Shmeisani	661714
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
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IBRAHIM:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)75555

FOR THE TRAVELLER



Following the formal welcome ceremony which included a 21-gun salute, King Hussein recited verses of the Holy Koran, watered an olive



"We are going to file a detailed report to our government concerning the situation in Iraq and the outcome of this visit, and we hope that very positive steps would be taken in all directions," added Mr. Sterchen.

On his discussions with the Jordanian parliamentarians before the trip to Iraq, Mr. Sterchen said they covered German-Jordanian ties and the Middle East question as well as the prospects for peace in the region.

"The planned total drilling metrage is 15,300 metres of boreholes at 24 locations," it said. "Around 12,000 metres have been completed so far."

"Testing work includes pumping water from these boreholes, some to depths (of) 1,500 metres, and carrying out sophisticated measurements, using computer-controlled loggers and instruments. Pumping tests are awaited at most test sites."

Please submit resumes to:
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Atlanta, Georgia
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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
جريدة الأردن يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Jordanian Perspective

Reshuffle reflects new emphasis on peace process

By Dr. Musa Kellani

THE RESHUFFLE that Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali carried out last week was one of Jordan's major steps towards devoting full attention to peace negotiations with Israel now that the Jewish state has dropped its stalling tactics and agreed to discuss the thorny issues of border demarcation and water rights.

The changes established Dr. Majali's ability to exercise political flexibility and hindsight whenever needed, after having adopted a strong position against including members of Parliament in his government, first when he formed the Cabinet in May 1993 and again when he carried out a limited reshuffle in November.

By bringing in heavyweight politicians like Thouqan Hindawi and Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh along with eight other members of Parliament, Dr. Majali has managed to make his government more representative and reduce tension with Parliament. Of course that does not mean that it would be smooth sailing for the government all the way in Parliament, particularly that the blocs in the Lower House are not exactly very happy with the individual approaches that Dr. Majali adopted in sounding out and enlisting deputies into his Cabinet.

Now, with the exception of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), the cabinet includes all shades of the political spectrum present in Parliament. The so-called Zaid Rifai and Mudar Badran factions are also in, and the north has no longer any reason to complain of a scaled-down presence in the executive authority, with Dr. Hindawi, Mr. Rawabdeh, Youssef Dalabih, Hisham Al Tai and Saleh Irshaidat occupying key positions in the cabinet.

Other independent and influential politicians with proven records opted not to join the government and the reasons for their absence could be traced to considerations related to the fast pace in the peace process. However, the very fact that they were offered the opportunity to join the executive authority should help smoothen the differences between Parliament and government that marked the last one year in office of Dr. Majali (in my own parlance, I would describe those who refrained from joining the cabinet as the Kingdom's key "reserves," to be drawn upon as and when the need arises).

Any scrutiny of the new government would not be complete without acknowledging the presence of several key figures in the cabinet with unblemished records in their public service. These include Mr. Dalabih, who served as His Royal Highness

Crown Prince Hassan's military secretary; Adel Qudah, who held no punches back in challenging inefficiencies in financial administration as head of the Audit Bureau, the Customs Department and the Income Tax Department, Talal Ureikat, a career military officer and former personal secretary to the Crown Prince; and Jumma Hammad, a highly respected journalist and former member of the Upper House of Parliament known for his logical, unbiased approach to issues. They represent not only an additional asset to the image of the government but also a reassuring factor to Dr. Majali on streamlining the internal front. The creation of a new portfolio for administrative development and the appointment of Mohammad Thuneibat, head of the Institute of Public Administration, to head that ministry as minister of state underlined the determination of the government to press ahead with the complicated and difficult task of administrative reform.

Quite interestingly, the appointment of Ziad Fariz, the veteran planning minister whose contribution to resurrecting the Jordanian economy after its collapse in 1988-89, as an advisor to Crown Prince Hassan strengthens the parallel economic team in the Royal Palace. Dr. Fariz's presence in the team along with Mohammad Saqqaf and Ahmad Mango should enable the Crown Prince to keep a close eye on the economic course of the country on a day-to-day basis.

The very composition of the economic team advising the Crown Prince should be an answer in itself to critics who have raised their eyebrows at the present economic team in the government despite the record of the success of Finance Minister Sami Gammoh in streamlining the fiscal budget and successfully pushing the sales tax law through Parliament in unwavering adherence to the economic restructuring programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund.

Indeed the sales tax itself was controversial and wide hostilities have been generated against the levy in the local scene. But that should not be any reflection on Mr. Gammoh. In my reading, opposition to the law was entrenched in the public mind much before Dr. Majali took office one year ago, and it was an uphill battle all the way for his economic team to convince the public and Parliament that there was no escape from the levy in the first place and that it was not as bad as it sounded with the added background clamour of arguments that market prices were going to shoot up and punish the poor. The market situation since the law went into force early this

month belies arguments.

Critics of the government also seem to overlook the fact that now we have Hisham Al Khatib as planning minister. Dr. Khatib's abilities in financial administration and efficiency in confronting adverse situations as well as negotiating capabilities have been proved time and again. And there is little reason to expect that his performance in meeting the challenges of Jordanian economic planning would be any less impressive than that of his predecessor, Dr. Fariz.

Apart from reduced tension with and bedrock support in Parliament, the presence of experienced politicians and executives like Dr. Hindawi and Mr. Rawabdeh should make it easy for Dr. Majali to relieve himself of preoccupations with the internal situation and devote all his efforts and energy to the crucial phase of negotiations with Israel that is looming in the horizon after last week's agreements in Washington to set up committees to demarcate the borders, negotiate water-sharing formulas and explore economic cooperation projects. No doubt, the new cabinet line-up reflects a determination of the Jordanian leadership to press ahead with the objectives of the mandate given to Dr. Majali when he was first appointed prime minister one year ago. But, now that one of the major tasks assigned to it, conducting fair and free general elections, has been successfully completed seven months ago, it was high time that the executive authority was strengthened towards the most challenging and difficult task of wrenching Jordan's national rights from Israel through negotiations.

Needless to say, the reshuffle gave priority to the peace process and strengthened the hand of the government in dealing with the exigencies of the peace process at a time when Jordan can ill-afford any delay in pressing ahead. The Kingdom waited for others to make progress in their tracks of negotiations with Israel and as soon as that was achieved it went ahead with sorting out the key issues on its table with the Jewish state.

However, the progress that was achieved in Washington last week does not mean that Jordan was on the verge of a peace treaty with Israel. Despite the widespread speculation on the local scene that that is indeed the case, it is naive and unreasonable to expect Jordan to abandon its long-held principle and go for a unilateral peace accord with the Jewish state without waiting for the other parties involved in the peace negotiations launched in Madrid in 1991. Quite simply, it is against Jordan's national interests that are held above everything else by our leadership.

Wider base, new team

THE RESHUFFLED cabinet of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali appears to be stronger than the former cabinet for the simple reason that it comprises "elements" from Parliament. The importance of this new character of the Majali government cannot but be emphasised since the exclusion of deputies from the former cabinet had weakened its mandate to make national decisions on issues that matter most in these trying times. The prime minister had hitherto adhered to the principle of separating the executive from the legislative branch by literally keeping out parliamentarians from his government. Hard-won experiences during the past few months have obviously convinced the prime minister that there could be no easy and absolute separation between the three principal branches of government.

But this is not all that is new about the newly assembled cabinet. The inclusion of the parliamentarian group, headed by Mr. Thouqan Al Hindawi, the new deputy prime minister, is also an important feature in view of the political clout that Mr. Hindawi and his colleagues from the Lower House enjoy both within Parliament as well as outside it. With the issues of peace pressing ever harder on the doors of the Kingdom, Dr. Majali needed as wide parliamentarian and public support as he can muster. With the new deputy prime minister slated to deal with most of the pressing domestic issues, the door is kept wide open for the prime minister to occupy himself even more with the nitty gritty aspects of the peace process especially now that Jordan and Israel have in fact reached a critical cross-roads in their bilateral peace talks.

The overall picture that is now emerging from the new government is one that promises more determined and coherent efforts on both the external and internal fronts. The need for well coordinated policy on both fronts cannot but be underscored in this particular era facing the country. We cannot pursue an effective foreign policy with regard to the peace process or otherwise without enjoying an equally effective internal policy, including of course the further development of the democratic process. In the forefront of the issues that still await resolution on the domestic front is of course the proposed new election law that should aim to give additional credibility to parliamentary democracy that was ushered in 1989.

The economy of the country has still a long way to go before it can stand on its own two feet. The challenges facing us are indeed formidable and have as such necessitated a wider based cabinet. Whether this new base is broad enough is something that only time can tell.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily expressed pessimism over the new reshuffled government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, but he said that he was waiting to see if the new ministers would live up to some people's expectations. Bassam Emoush, an Islamic Action Front deputy, said the Jordanian people want to see the government unrelenting to foreign pressure, honouring what is right and fighting corruption and upholding sublime ideals pertaining to education and Islamic religion. The writer said he wanted to see the government pursuing efforts to put an end to misconduct on the part of many people in key positions and to maintain a high level of consultations with the legislative authority in all matters related to domestic and foreign affairs. Attacking some of the deputies who accepted Cabinet portfolios without naming any one, the writer said that it was shameful that these deputies have never concealed their desire to become ministers. Indeed, he said, those people had run in the elections in the first place for the sole purpose of becoming ministers one day.

WHAT JORDAN achieved in the trilateral meetings in Washington is but a start and it remains to be seen whether the Israelis will honour their commitment to demarcate the borders with the Kingdom and settle the water problem on a fair basis, said Al Dastour daily. The paper said some Jordanians believe the breakthrough in the Washington talk marks a major turning point in the Arab-Israeli negotiations and would lead to further successes along the other Arab-Israeli tracks. But it should be noted here that the success, was a very limited step and people want to see something materialising on the ground, said the daily. It would not be surprising to us to see Israel trying to escape from the commitments it made in Washington by trying to stall and manoeuvre as the Jewish state could be trying to reap the lion's share of benefits of peace, added the paper. It said that it is premature to talk of optimistic about successful projects executed through Jordanian-Israeli cooperation in the Jordan Valley because one should first wait for the first steps to be taken in the coming month regarding borders and water sharing. One has to wait and see, added the paper, whether Israel will be transforming its declared good intentions into facts on the ground.

M. KAHIL



THE WEEK IN PRINT

Fresh talks with Israel right step to serve the Kingdom's interests

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

DEVELOPMENTS in the peace process, the situation in Yemen and domestic issues were addressed by the local Arabic daily press in the past week.

Under the title of "Along the Path of a Comprehensive Solution," Al Ra'i Arabic daily said the achievements accomplished along the Jordanian-Israeli track would not be crowned by a peace treaty without a pan-Arab endorsement of an overall Arab-Israeli settlement that can restore Arab rights. The Israeli consent to demarcate the borders with Jordan is only part of the demands made by the Arab parties to the peace negotiations, added the paper.

The Jordanian government did well in resuming the talks with Israel so that the negotiations would not remain deadlocked with the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher conducting futile shuttle diplomacy between the capitals of the region, said Taher Al Adwan, a columnist in Al Dastour.

In view of reports about progress on the Israeli-Syrian track, Jordan has all the right to seek to ensure its own national interests and solve its outstanding problems resulting from Israel's occupation of Arab land, added the writer.

Mahmoud Al Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said while Arab parties claim they are coordinating their positions in the peace negotiations, they are doing nothing to prevent Israel from pursuing its attacks on Lebanese territory. The writer said that what is the point of having coordination to reach peace

with Israel, which is intent on continuing its war against the Arabs. For its part, Jordan linked its continued participation in the peace process to the lifting of the siege on Aqaba. Why can't the Lebanese and the Syrians link their own position to halting all Israeli attacks on Lebanese territory to ensure their resumption of the peace talks? he asked.

Supporting the government's move to open talks with Israel over territory and water sharing issues, Sultan Al Hattab, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that Jordan should shoulder serious responsibility and should force ahead with plans to ensure the return of lost lands and rights. The writer said that in light of the poor level of coordination the Palestinians are having with Jordan, the Jordanian government has no alternative but to move ahead with its talks so that it would not be left lagging behind. He said Jordan has a very narrow space for manoeuvre and should seize every opportunity to safeguard its national rights.

The negotiations with Israel was the topic tackled also by Fahed Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i, who said Jordan would not sign a separate peace treaty with Israel unless a comprehensive settlement has been reached. But, he said, the government should make its conditions for peace very clear to the Jordanian public and the Arab masses. The government did well in openly decrying the poor level of coordination with the other Arab parties to the peace talks but now Jordan should make its demands clear, just like Syria did when it defined its condi-

tions and the Palestinians who have accomplished their first step towards statehood, added the writer. Dr. Fanek said that there is no such thing as coordination among Arab parties and claims to the contrary are an attempt to escape making decisions in this crucial matter.

Samir Habashneh, a columnist in Al Ra'i, welcomed genuine coordination between Jordan, Syria and Lebanon in the face of Israel's procrastinations and ill intentions. For the past four decades, we have been hearing calls and slogans for coordination among the Arab countries around Israel but nothing has materialised, he said. We would like to see Syria, Jordan and Lebanon taking steps leading to economic integration as an initial stage to be followed by other steps towards regaining all usurped Arab rights and water, said the writer.

Referring to the Israeli raids on Lebanon, Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dastour, said that by striking the Lebanese resistance, the Israelis are pursuing their war on Lebanon. He said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin hopes to appease the Israeli opposition, which rebelled against his handling over the Gaza and Jericho regions to the Palestinians, added the writer. The writer said the Israelis want to make it clear to the Syrians that their demands for full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and the Lebanese territories would not receive a favourable response in Israel.

These views were echoed by another Al Dastour columnist, who said that by raid-

ing Hizbollah positions, Mr. Rabin is dealing a blow to the Israeli opposition which has been objecting to his agreements with the Palestinians. Saleh Al Qallab said that by flexing Israel's military muscles, Mr. Rabin is telling the opposition that Israeli might can and will protect Israel's interests regardless of the autonomy role in parts of Palestine.

For his part, Tareq Masarweh said that raiding Hizbollah positions was part of Israel's campaign to pressure Syria into returning to the negotiating table. The columnist said that by raiding Lebanese territory close to Syria and by massing troops near the border with Lebanon, Israel is showing its determination to its confrontation with Syria in order to prevent the Syrians from regaining the Golan Heights.

Nabil Al Sharif, a writer in Al Dastour, said that only Qatar out of all the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council has decided to refrain from signing the final statement concerning the situation in Yemen out of its keenness to preserve the unity of that country. The writer said that Qatar has shown a brave stand in the face of an overwhelming support for southern Yemen on the part of the Gulf Cooperation Council states. It was, he said, similar to its stand when it chose to rebuild bridges with Iraq in the wake of the Gulf war. The writer said Qatar has realised before other partners in the council that it is of paramount importance to seek unity among Arab countries and reject any move leading to the weakening and disintegration of the Arab World.

Africa needs to stand on its own feet

By Francis Mdlongwa
Reuter

HARARE — African states have seized the initiative in a bid to end Rwanda's bloodshed after what some see as dithering by Western countries preoccupied by their own problems.

Political commentators say the Africans have awakened to the fact that in the post-cold war era, they must offer solutions to the continent's crises themselves.

"Non-Africans are not prepared for a long haul in subduing an African conflict and are certainly not prepared to accept casualties," Zimbabwe's Herald newspaper said Saturday.

It recalled that the United States and other Western states pulled out of the United Nations peacekeeping force in Somalia earlier this year after rag-tag militiamen inflicted casualties on them.

The Herald was commenting after 14 African nations from Benin in the west to Botswana in the south resolved to send troops to halt carnage in Rwanda that has killed 500,000 people.

The 14 met in Zimbabwe's capital Harare to review the continent's economic woes and political issues after the demise of apartheid in South Africa, which for decades preoccupied many of them.

Nelson Mandela, elected South Africa's first black president in April after three centuries of white domination, attended the twin summits, giving them a moral fillip.

"Mandela, as head of Afri-

ca's richest nation now finally free, certainly gave weight to the meetings which by all accounts were very successful," an African diplomat said.

The Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which holds its annual summit in Tunis next week, has tried unsuccessfully since its founding in 1963 to assemble a force that would intervene in crises such as those in Rwanda, Somalia, Liberia and Angola.

"The OAU's main handicaps have been lack of financial resources and the fear by some states that such a force could be used against them," a Western analyst said.

"But with increasing demands for good governance and political changes since the end of the cold war, the need for such a force couldn't be greater and Africa is in the spotlight," he said.

The Herald said that the West, led by Washington, had little vital interests in the world's poorest continent. "We can still save lives in Rwanda and the United Nations, using the African troops now offered, must do this and do it quickly," it said. "We must never let such genocide ever happen again in Africa."

Aid agencies say 500,000 Rwandans have been slaughtered in a war pitting the majority Hutus against the minority Tutsis.

An African diplomat said the West was concerned with its own domestic problems, especially trying to revive economies that were moving too slowly out of recession.

LETTERS

'You shall not love'

To the Editor:

JORDAN TELEVISION Channel 2 is feeding us nearly every day with the most cruel and criminal movies; killing, kidnapping, battered women, terror, horror, in all varieties. It seems that there is nothing else in the world, especially in the Western world, and particularly in America.

And when there is one of the more enjoyable films, where people fall in love, and express their feelings for each other by kissing and hugging, these scenes are cut, censored by people who feel they have to "protect" the citizens from immoral behaviour.

It seems that for those responsible the most important commandment is not "you shall not kill", but "you shall not love".

Also I find it very humiliating that there are people deciding what I should see or not see. I am an adult with perfectly normal moral standards, with a functioning brain, so far, and I can judge for myself what kind of movies I want to see. I have the ability to choose the right movies, and do not need censors to tell me what to see.

What kind of democracy is that, where people never get the chance to develop their thinking and mature. There is no respect if people are treated like stupid creatures who have to swallow what others chewed for them.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Heidi Masarweh,
Amman.

مكتبة في القدس

Jordan has clear vision on Syria ties

(Continued from page 1)

Israeli economic agreement. But Jordan, though welcoming closer ties with the two Arab states, said solid and practical steps should govern the approach to the proposal.

Other sources, who expected Syria to push for the proposal, said Jordan will not enter the alliance if it will be directed against any third party or will impact that impression. They said Jordan will not want it to be exclusive to the countries which launch it under certain political circumstances.

Informal sources said His Majesty King Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad spoke of the need for "higher level of economic and political cooperation" between the two countries during their summit in Damascus last month. But they would not confirm news reports that the two leaders

discussed the formation of an economic alliance.

"The desire for closer ties and coordination with all Arab states is a constant of the policy of Jordan," a well-informed source told the Jordan Times. But, he added, "fast steps based on emotions would not be the way to do it." Other sources added that Jordan will want any alliances open to all Arab parties who might show interest in joining it.

In addition, the sources said, Jordan will want to guarantee the success of any institutionalised form of cooperation by first preparing the ground work for it.

The sources also pointed to the regional political environment which they said might hamper the success or even the launch of a formal Jordanian-Syrian-Lebanese economic

alliance. They said that some of "Syria's allies in the region, mainly the Gulf countries, might not be supportive of the concept," noting that some of these countries stopped their aid to the Kingdom when Amman and Damascus took serious steps towards integration in the late 1970s. They also noted the antagonism with which these states received the Arab Cooperation Council before it collapsed in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis.

Saturday's meeting of the Jordanian-Syrian committee will be the country's first since the Gulf crisis. In the meeting, the two countries are expected to discuss trade relations, joint projects, and the trade balance which tilts towards Damascus.

A Syrian economic team held talks with Jordanian officials over trade and economic issues last month.

287 Palestinians freed but confined to Jericho

(Continued from page 1)

their local Israeli military office in the occupied West Bank to process papers before returning home.

The document bars the holder from entering Israel proper.

"I don't think Jericho should be a dumping ground for the prisoners," said Saeb Erekat, "minister" of local government in the new Palestinian authority.

Under the May 4 Israel-PLO agreement to implement autonomy, Israel agreed to release up to 5,000 of the 9,000 Palestinian prisoners in its jails within nine weeks. Those belonging to factions opposed to the agreement or convicted of killing or injuring Israelis will not be freed.

Also agreed was that Palestinians serving life terms for killing other Palestinians would be released into autonomous areas, either in Gaza or Jericho.

The PLO has agreed that 128 others sentenced to life terms will remain in Jericho under the agreement, but the prisoners themselves are unhappy.

"I feel bad, because I cannot go home," said Jamil Ashad Hamamdeh, 27, of the Black Panther militants which is loyal to Yasser Arafat's Fatah wing of the PLO. Mr. Hamamdeh lives in Kabatha, about 60 kilometres north of Jericho, near the West Bank town of Jenin.

The provision that prisoners convicted of violent crimes serve out their sentences in the autonomy areas sparked protests earlier in the week when prisoners had to sign papers saying they would respect that

provision and support the agreement.

In an open letter they accused PLO leaders of neglecting them.

Clashes over prisoner releases erupted in the West Bank town of Nablus Friday, with protesters demanding a general amnesty throwing rocks at police who responded with tear-gas. No injuries were reported.

However, the atmosphere outside the police headquarters was jubilant as cars poured in from the West Bank and formed queues to see the prisoners.

A busload of women and children waving Palestinian flags and cheering arrived at restaurant waiters bustled back and forth, carrying food to prisoners seated outdoors.

Israel Radio reported that 13 more prisoners, not in the 287, had been allowed to return to their West Bank homes.

On Thursday, Israel released 177 prisoners on the Gaza Strip. It was the first time Palestinians who faced life in jail were allowed out.

However, none had killed Israelis, Palestinian officials said. Some had killed Palestinians and attacked Israelis. All pledged to renounce violence and not to oppose the peace process.

Ibrahimi, Yemen envoy arrive

(Continued from page 1)

President Saleh, Jordan Television (JTV) reported.

Mr. Ghanem told JTV that the message dealt with the latest developments in Yemen and means of halting the war, and to "seek a way to fully implement the (U.N.) Security Council resolution which preserves the unity of Yemeni territories."

He said his visit to Jordan was part of an Arab tour to brief Arab leaders on the situation in Yemen.

Mr. Ghanem has already visited Damascus.

The Yemeni envoy blamed the war in Yemen on the leaders of the southern Yemeni Socialist Party "who rebelled against the Yemeni leadership in order to declare their secession."

The Yemeni leadership, he asserted, has welcomed the Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire although it believed that the resolution was an interference in Yemen's internal affairs.

He said that the Yemeni leadership "support dialogue for solving the crisis, but only with members of the Yemeni Socialist Party who believe in national unity and democracy."

"It will be difficult to talk with those elements who do not believe in unity and who had declared secession," he said, in an apparent reference to southern leader Ali Saleh Al Beidh.

IAEA penalises North Korea

(Continued from page 1)

Korea's rejection of inspections and urged it to open all of its nuclear sites.

Following the vote, North Korean envoy Yun Ho Jin said his country would not allow any more IAEA inspections. He said the agency's two inspectors currently in North Korea would be asked to leave immediately.

"We will not allow any of the verification activity, which is now under way," the envoy said.

The United States and Russia agreed Friday to cooperate on a motion calling for United Nations sanctions against North Korea.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said after talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev in Istanbul that a resolution to that effect would be presented to the U.N. Security Council "in the next few days." The two met in Istanbul on the fringe of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) talks on establishing a partnership with Russia.

Japanese Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa meanwhile prepared to head for Seoul and Beijing to sound out the Chinese on the crisis. But even before he left, Chinese President Jiang Zemin categorically refused to impose economic sanctions on its ally.

"It is necessary to deal patiently with such a complicated issue," Mr. Jiang told Japan's NHK television. "There is still room left for dialogue. China is opposed to sanctions which could bring about grave consequences." He indicated the crisis should be settled by dialogue.

In Tokyo, Japanese and

U.S. officials agreed on the need for U.N. Security Council sanctions against Pyongyang. The accord was reached at a meeting between Japan's prime minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, and U.S. Secretary of State for Political Affairs Peter Tarnoff, in PLO Press said.

Pyeongyang said it will not allow any imposition of sanctions prove an act of war and has asked this threatened to withdraw from the nuclear non-proliferation Treaty for a second time.

Russia has been slow to throw wholehearted support behind punitive international sanctions and has launched the idea of an international conference to debate the issue among delegations from the two Koreas, Russia, the United States and the United Nations.

Mr. Christopher said U.S. President Bill Clinton had discussed the matter with Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin by telephone and confirmed both countries' intent to pursue a two-pronged strategy comprising the threat of sanctions as well as an international conference.

A White House official said meanwhile former President Jimmy Carter's trip to North Korea next week is a private one and he will not be carrying a message about the current nuclear problem from the U.S. government.

But the administration has discussed the trip with Mr. Carter, the official added.

"Carter is on a private visit" at the invitation of the Pyongyang government, the official said.

"We have discussed North Korea with him, but he is not an envoy."

No economic project with Israel

(Continued from page 1)

Christians and should be open to all monotheistic religions.

However, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have agreed to negotiate the status of Jerusalem in the final status talks due to take place within three years after the interim period of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Like the issue of Jerusalem, the Palestinian refugee question was also postponed for final status negotiations between the PLO and Israel.

Jerusalem and refugees were not discussed during the two days of meetings in Washington but it did not mean that Jordan has abandoned these two pending questions, Dr. Anani said.

"The issue of Palestinian refugees is of grave concern to us," Dr. Anani said, noting that the largest Palestinian refugee community, according to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), was residing in the Kingdom. "Since most of them carry Jordanian citizenships, their future status must be clear before signing a peace treaty with Israel," Dr. Anani said.

PLO gets \$42 m

(Continued from page 1)

United States, the European Union, Russia, Japan, Canada and Saudi Arabia. Associated members and the PLO, Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, the United Nations and the World Bank.

The Israeli delegation said in a statement that "Israel insisted during the talks that Jerusalem should not be mentioned as the seat of the Palestinian Economic Council for Reconstruction and Development (PECDAR), although that was the Palestinians' intention."

Instead, it was agreed that PECDAR offices would open in Gaza and Jericho, and the opening of other offices could only be decided by common agreement.

Dr. Shaath, chief negotiator of last month's self-rule accord and the new Palestinian authority's "finance minister," said it was decided to leave the issue of Jerusalem to be discussed by the two parties elsewhere in the light of their peace accords.

Delegates said the Israelis promised to grant 10,000 extra permits for Palestinians to work in the Jewish state, in addition to the 35,000 currently authorised.

However, that was a far cry from the free movement of labour sought by the Palestinians, and from the roughly 120,000 Palestinians who worked in Israel before restrictions were enforced for "security reasons" last year.

U.N. envoy pursues bid

(Continued from page 1)

remained within Yemeni borders, other Arab states are widely believed to be backing both sides with weaponry and financing for military supplies.

Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states resent northern Yemeni leaders' pro-Iraqi stances in the 1991 Gulf war but at the same time do not want to see a prolonged conflict trigger refugee flows and other humanitarian crises at their doorstep.

Military and diplomatic sources in Sanaa note that northern and southern forces appear to be overstretching and exhausting themselves and neither appears able to secure a decisive victory.

Refugee issue will be solved in final status

(Continued from page 10)

Saleh said the agency's Peace Implementation Programme, which was launched after the signing of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord in Washington in September, was intended to improve infrastructure in schools and health clinics, create jobs and improve sanitation infrastructure inside refugee camps.

Mr. Kurtzer said that donor, sponsor and other countries involved in the multilateral talks on refugees such as Jordan, Canada, the European Union and the United Nations, and the World Bank were asked to "bring experience, expertise and resources to bear on the problems of the region."

Mr. Saleh said that donors had thus far "given firm pledges" of \$86 million to

wards the peace implementation programme.

Mr. Kurtzer said that while the bilateral talks were intended to lead to a political solution between Israelis, Palestinians and the Arab states hosting refugees, the multilateral talks were intended to create a "mechanism the material conditions in which the Palestinian refugees find themselves — the way they live, the way they eat, the way they educate their children and the way they can or cannot compete for jobs."

"Neither solution, neither the practical nor the political, would properly work without the other. It's the merging of the two, the practical and the political, that makes this peace process look like it's going to be successful over time," concluded Mr. Kurtzer.

PLO state of affairs delays Jordan accord

(Continued from page 1)

there were no problems or misunderstandings regarding the agreement.

"Signing the agreement with Jordan is more urgent than ever. Any procrastination will be harmful to both sides, I see no reason for any delay," he said.

Abu Alaa's statement clearly reflects the differences within the upper echelons of the PLO as well as the increasing frustration with the state of general indecision.

One problem that seems to cause the delay is while Abu Alaa has reached the draft agreement, it is Mr. Kaddoumi who will sign it and could even negotiate modifications with Jordan.

That was the case when Abu Alaa reached the broader economic cooperation with Jordan in November. It was not until January that Mr. Kaddoumi signed it after negotiating modifications with Jordan.

The apparent differences and overlapping of roles of PLO officials reflect the state of affairs in the PLO after the signing of the Oslo accord, which was negotiated by Abu Alaa without the knowledge of Mr. Kaddoumi, the PLO foreign minister and cofounder of the Fatah mainstream movement.

Since then Mr. Kaddoumi has taken a more active role in economic negotiations in his capacity as the PLO's foreign minister and acting

president of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR).

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat appointed Mr. Kaddoumi to the post in spite of the latter's declared opposition to the Oslo accords, partly to counter the rising influence of both Mahmoud Abbas, the architect of the accord, and Abu Alaa.

Mr. Kaddoumi has been using the post, according to analysts, to influence the course of negotiations with the Israelis and the World Bank in an attempt to contain what he views as negative repercussions of the flaws in the accords.

Accordingly Mr. Kaddoumi considers the fact that the Paris economic agreement with Israel did not lead to a customs union with the Jewish state and considered the shekel one of the currencies used, and not the major one as a Palestinian gain that paves the way for closer coordination with Jordan — as a factor to enhance prospects for future Palestinian sovereignty. But it is also obvious that Mr. Kaddoumi and other officials are seeking what they perceive as parity in relations with the Kingdom.

The interpretations that the Jordan Times obtained from Jordanian sources and Palestinian officials immediately after last month's resolutions in Amman con-

tradict Mr. Kaddoumi's definition of the role of the joint monetary committee. However, the wording of the draft agreement itself seems to be vague of defining the committee's role as it refers in general to joint coordination on supervision and licensing of financial institutions and banks.

What seems to be more problematic is the Jordanian proposal for the Palestinian authority to open an account at the CBI. While the reservations on the proposal stem from concern that such a step could give Jordan "political leverage" over the Palestinian authority, Jordanian sources had immediately dismissed such doubts, especially that the agreement also includes a proposal that the Jordanian government opens an account with the proposed Palestinian monetary authority.

Meanwhile, the agreement with Jordan is pending and no date has been set for Mr. Kaddoumi's visit to Jordan. As with all other important issues, the leadership appears to be awaiting a decision by Mr. Arafat, who has not been discussing his future plans with most of his colleagues who in turn have been waiting for him to recover from a sharp flu and make up his mind about how to deal with the many pending questions.

However, most PLO officials here believe that differences with Jordan could be solved once talks with the Kingdom begin.

Jordanians to be evacuated from Aden

(Continued from page 10)

If the ship, which has a 1,600-passenger capacity, is unable to dock at Aden's port, it will remain offshore in Yemen's territorial waters. Smaller boats will then be used to bring the evacuees to the bigger ship, an operation that is expected to take two days, the IOM said.

Chartered Jordanian planes brought home nearly 1,000 Jordanians from Yemen after the outbreak of the civil war. Others have come home aboard the erratic flights oper-

ated by other airlines and a few were ferried to Djibouti from where they flew home.

The IOM issued an urgent appeal last month for \$355,000 to finance the evacuation and has received \$120,000 from Germany and \$50,000 from Britain.

The agency, set up in 1951, is the main international body concerned with migration, arranging the movement of refugees and migrants to new homes. Jordan is an observer-member of the agency.

Iraqi pipeline deal

(Continued from page 10)

the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) had failed, he acknowledged.

"The statement was interpreted by some circles as if it was a call to divide or break up Iraq which we categorically

deny," he said, addressing his latest call to Iraq's people, the opposition and "concerned governments" in the area.

U.N. missile inspectors headed for Baghdad on Friday to tag Iraqi missile systems as part of a long-term monitoring and verification programme.

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United Nations ESCWA
Abdel Hamid Sharaf No. 28
Shmeisani, Amman.**

Proposals should be received at ESCWA no later than 15 June, 1994.

Proposals must include the address of the structure, a description of the available space with floor plans, total square metres and the price per square metre. Also, if any services are included in the lease price such as maintenance and/or cleaning services, a description of the services should be included.

Soccer-economic form may be clue to World Cup success

LONDON (R) — Throw away the form-book, forget the injury problems — the serious soccer fan can now pick the country which will win the 1994 World Cup by analysing not its sporting but its economic prowess.

Swiss Bank Corporation (SBC), in a light-hearted publication ahead of the World Cup which kicks off next week in the United States, examined whether there was a link between success in soccer and economic fortunes.

"We tentatively conclude," the bank said.

Its researches suggested that countries that had fared well in past World Cups had gone on to enjoy improved economic success as well.

SBC looked at countries in the two biggest footballing continents — Europe and Latin America — chose the best soccer nations and came up with some interesting pointers.

Argentina and Uruguay, for instance, have long been among South America's highest per capita gross domestic product (GDP) economies and both have a history of strong soccer performances.

"Colombia is another interesting example," said Jim Neill, head of global research at SBC in London.

"Although they have a limited track record in soccer, in recent years their performance has improved markedly — coincidentally (or perhaps not) at the same time as the economy was starting to improve considerably."

SBC also noted the relative decline of Brazil. In the mid to late 1970s Brazil had one of the better-performing economies, and was supreme on the field.

"But gradually the (economic) gap between Argentina and Brazil has widened. The same of course has happened in football," Mr. O'Neill said.

Europe too provided examples.

"What can be seen in terms of per capita GDP is that gaps have got bigger, with England in marked decline relative to Germany," said SBC.

"In this regard the remarkable contrasting fortunes of these two countries is that Germany has gone from strength to strength in football, whilst England, at least at the national level, has gone into decline," SBC noted.

Germany won the last cup in 1990, while England this time have failed even to qualify.

Of course, a country does not have to be good at soccer to have economic success — or vice versa. The United States and Japan, the two biggest economies in the world, have until recently shown little interest in the game.

Japan have failed to qualify for the finals, and the United States, although the host nation, are scarcely one of the favourites.

But with its economy now powering out of recession, who knows?

Parliament passes Syria's '94 budget

DAMASCUS (AP) — Parliament has approved the government's 1994 budget of 144.162 billion Syrian pounds (\$6.27 billion) with expenditure increased by around 8.6 per cent.

The official Syrian Arab News Agency said the new budget listed expenditure of 76.2 billion pounds (\$3.31 billion), compared to 61.27 billion pounds (\$2.66 billion) in 1993.

The official exchange rate is 23 pounds to the dollar.

The budget, presented to the People's Assembly by Finance Minister Khalid Mahani, earmarked 42.06 per cent of current expenditure for defence — nearly 33 billion pounds (\$1.5 billion) and about the same as last year.

Russia is reported to have agreed to write off most of Syria's \$10 billion military debt, which Moscow inherited from the now defunct Soviet Union.

The remainder will be covered in hard cash payments to the financially strapped Russians by unidentified Arab states — believed to be Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

According to published figures, expenditure for this year is more than double the 1990 level.

According to U.S. officials, Syria's economy has grown seven to eight per cent annually since 1990, when Damascus joined the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq, its main Arab rival.

Oil production has risen to around 580,000 barrels a day, with half that exported for hard currency. Agricultural crops have improved greatly.

The government is slowly opening up the state-controlled economy after decades of tight socialist centralisation.

Figures provided by the state-run investment bureau in Damascus show that 970 economic projects worth nearly \$4 billion have been approved under law 10, liberalising legislation passed in May 1991 and designed to attract foreign investment.

But despite law 10, cornerstone of the government's economic reform strategy, Western investors remain cautious, concerned about Syria's outmoded infrastructure and other factors.

Before the budget was presented to parliament May 17, President Hafez Assad announced a 30 per cent increase in public-sector wages.

The budget also listed a 50 per cent increase in energy allowances. Those and the wage hike totalled 18 billion pounds (\$782.6 million).

Some 68 billion pounds (\$2.95 billion) — about half the total spending — has been earmarked for development in the new budget.

The government seeks to create 70,376 jobs in the administrative and economic sectors in this nation of 17 million people.

Mr. Mahani said the government was giving priority to investment to establish new power stations worth 67.30 billion pounds (\$2.9 billion).

This is part of Syria's urgent drive to end chronic electricity shortages that have weakened the long-moribund economy and caused daily blackouts in Damascus and other cities.

The budget estimated domestic revenues at 97.9 billion pounds (\$4.2 billion), compared to 80.124 billion pounds (\$3.5 billion) last year.

External revenues were pegged at 24.53 billion pounds (\$1.06 billion), compared to 31.868 billion pounds (\$1.38 billion) last year.

The proportion of total revenues funded by foreign and domestic loans remains virtually unchanged at 27 per cent.

In the past two years, Syria has secured almost \$4 billion in aid, mainly from the Gulf states and international agencies, to finance infrastructure and industrial projects.

Much of this was President Assad's reward for joining the anti-Iraq coalition in 1990.

Trading, prices shrink at AFM

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Turnover at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) registered a sharp decline last week with a weekly volume of JD 4.8 million compared with the previous week's JD12.3 million, figures released by the market showed.

The general price index of 100 points based on the shares of 60 major companies traded in the market also dropped to 152.24 points, reflecting a decline of 1.02 per cent.

Brokers attributed the decline partly to investor apathy and partly to the sea-sawing prospects of international aid flowing to the Palestinian self-authority after Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat publicly complained about the delays in the funds being actually allocated.

The performance of the AFM sharply contradicted expectations that the bourse was on its way up after a several-week stagnation. The JD12.3 million turnover for the week ending June 2 represented an 83.6 per cent rise over the previous week, giving rise to hopes that the slump in the market was over.

The jump was attributed partly to investor enthusiasm after a week-long 'Eid Al Adha' holiday and better indications that Jordanian companies will have a share in the economic rebuilding of the occupied territories under the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy agreement.

But Mr. Arafat's pointed comments that the donor community and the World Bank were slow in sending funds to the Palestinian self-rule authority and statements attributed to unidentified PLO officials that the donors were attaching "impossible conditions" to the aid had taken their toll on the AFM, observers said.

"The inference simple," said a broker. "People believe that the flow of international funds to the self-rule areas is vital for the launching of construction and infrastructure projects. The more the funds are delayed, the less investor interest in Jordanian companies seen as having the potential of tapping the self-rule market."

In general, share prices at the AFM have declined by four to five per cent since the beginning of the year.

Jordanian investors are prone to "overreacting to regional events" — as one observer put it — and base their speculative moves on short-term developments, brokers say.

The AFM figures for last week showed that 1.88 million shares changed hands during the week under 3,786 contracts.

The banking sector accounted for JD1.9 million of the turnover, followed by industrial stock with JD1.51 million, the services sector with JD400,000 and insurance stock with JD111,250.

Trading worth JD909,600 in the parallel market of fresh stock raised the total to JD4.8 million.

The banking sector index dropped by 0.74 per cent to 160.23 points, the insurance sector index by 0.5 per cent to 147.09 points, the industrial sector index by 1.63 points to 137.5 points and the services sector index by 0.43 per cent to 144.45 points.

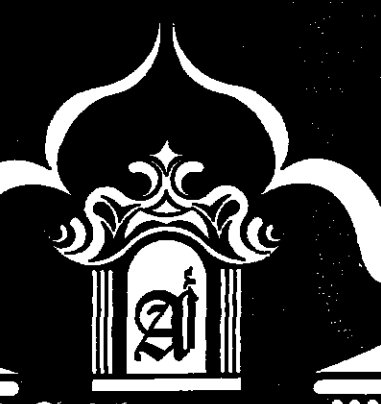
Shares of 87 companies were traded during the week, with 23 of them showing gains, 48 losing and 16 remaining stable.

Many investors were also abstaining from the market pending the outcome of last month's discussions between Jordan and the PLO on economic cooperation between the Kingdom and the Palestinian autonomous territories.

Brokers have been saying that trading stood to lose more if concrete signs of institutionalised Jordan-PLO economic cooperation were not forthcoming.

"However, an improvement could be expected this week with signs that the government and Lloyds Register are about to conclude an agreement" on placing a sanctions-verification regime at Aqaba, said a banking official.

"Investors will be quick to grab the opportunity to acquire stocks of importers and distributors who stand to reduce their imports costs as a result of the Lloyds presence at Aqaba," noted the banker.



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AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

WEEKLY REPORT

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PRV. CLOSING PRICE	OP. CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN BANK	224,900	187,000	187,500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	194,500	7,200	7,200
BANK OF JORDAN	7,115	4,400	4,400
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	11,406	2,800	2,800
JORDAN SECURITIES	125,650	2,800	2,800
JORDAN TRADING BANK	67,750	5,800	5,800
JORDAN TRADING BANK	148,893	3,100	3,100
JORDAN TRADING BANK	11,742	1,200	1,200
JORDAN TRADING BANK	51,780	1,200	1,200
JORDAN TRADING BANK	407,576	4,000	4,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	5,852	4,700	4,700
JORDAN TRADING BANK	60,031	1,900	1,900
JORDAN TRADING BANK	9,304	9,000	9,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	11,171	4,200	4,200
JORDAN TRADING BANK	215,764	1,800	1,800
JORDAN TRADING BANK	452	4,200	4,200
JORDAN TRADING BANK	124,445	2,000	2,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	68,175	1,500	1,500
JORDAN TRADING BANK	27,423	3,000	3,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	5,230	2,500	2,500
JORDAN TRADING BANK	152,860	2,500	2,500
JORDAN TRADING BANK	3,300	6,000	6,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	7,025	6,000	6,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	26,440	4,700	4,700
JORDAN TRADING BANK	62,955	2,600	2,600
JORDAN TRADING BANK	1,658	6,000	6,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	51,040	4,000	4,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	8,324	1,400	1,400
JORDAN TRADING BANK	11,044	6,000	6,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	1,409	1,000	1,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	359	1,200	1,200
JORDAN TRADING BANK	628	1,800	1,800
JORDAN TRADING BANK	6,040	14,000	15,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	39,089	1,900	2,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	27,376	3,900	3,900
JORDAN TRADING BANK	20,100	10,000	20,500
JORDAN TRADING BANK	12,957	1,500	1,500
JORDAN TRADING BANK	178,051	2,800	2,700
JORDAN TRADING BANK	5,411	2,400	2,400
JORDAN TRADING BANK	57,432	10,700	10,400
JORDAN TRADING BANK	1,192	7,100	7,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	873	1,800	1,800
JORDAN TRADING BANK	22,745	4,000	4,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	11,400	11,000	11,300
JORDAN TRADING BANK	99,000	7,000	7,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	6,100	4,200	4,200
JORDAN TRADING BANK	206	2,700	2,700
JORDAN TRADING BANK	23,224	2,800	3,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	3,862	2,900	2,900
JORDAN TRADING BANK	8,000	14,500	16,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	16,935	2,700	2,700
JORDAN TRADING BANK	6,115	2,600	2,600
JORDAN TRADING BANK	82,196	4,000	4,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	751,454	17,400	17,400
JORDAN TRADING BANK	87,710	1,400	1,400
JORDAN TRADING BANK	64,234	8,200	8,500
JORDAN TRADING BANK	20,544	1,000	1,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	4,797	1,400	1,400
JORDAN TRADING BANK	2,977	4,600	4,800
JORDAN TRADING BANK	25,742	4,000	4,200
JORDAN TRADING BANK	48,054	2,100	2,200
JORDAN TRADING BANK	42,150	2,100	2,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	70,280	4,000	4,200
JORDAN TRADING BANK	32,303	5,500	5,500
JORDAN TRADING BANK	6,270	1,800	1,800
JORDAN TRADING BANK	3,376	3,200	3,200
JORDAN TRADING BANK	15,700	4,200	4,200
JORDAN TRADING BANK	37,410	2,500	2,500
JORDAN TRADING BANK	7,649	2,800	2,800
JORDAN TRADING BANK	21,999	2,000	2,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	18,721	3,400	3,700
JORDAN TRADING BANK	905	4,700	1,010
JORDAN TRADING BANK	12,340	2,300	2,300
JORDAN TRADING BANK	55,495	4,800	4,800
JORDAN TRADING BANK	197,796	4,800	4,800
GRAND TOTAL	3,726,041		

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

WEEKLY REPORT

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PRV. CLOSING PRICE	OP. CLOSING PRICE
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	37,027	1,000	1,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	38,475	7,200	7,200
JORDAN TRADING BANK	875	1,500	1,500
JORDAN TRADING BANK	68,346	1,100	1,100
JORDAN TRADING BANK	18,110	1,700	1,800
JORDAN TRADING BANK	115,418	2,100	2,100
JORDAN TRADING BANK	5,422	1,400	1,400
JORDAN TRADING BANK	180,454	2,100	2,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	190,002	1,700	1,700
JORDAN TRADING BANK	2,820	2,810	2,800
JORDAN TRADING BANK	158,485	2,000	2,100
JORDAN TRADING BANK	55,495	2,400	2,400
GRAND TOTAL	999,618		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for trading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession in the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

Currency	Rate
U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3738/48
Canadian dollar	1.6680/90
Deutsche marks	1.8696/06
Dutch guilders	1.4098/08
Swiss francs	34.33/37
French francs	5.6740/90
Italian lire	1613.2/4.7
Japanese yen	104.02/12
Swedish crowns	7.9125/25
Norwegian crowns	7.2240/50
Danish crowns	6.5100/50
One sterling	\$1.5060/70
One ounce of gold	\$383.35/383.65

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Rebels gain ground in Kigali

KIGALI (Agencies) — Violent clashes kept up Friday in the Rwandan capital Kigali where rebels were "slowly gaining some ground" against government forces, a U.N. military spokesman said.

The Hutu-led government forces however were "putting up a strong resistance" against rebel attacks, said Major Jean-Guy Plante of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR).

In Gitarama, 50 kilometres to the south of Kigali, there was a "standstill" in the rebels' drive to capture the town where the interim government which the mainly Tutsi rebels reject is holed up after fleeing the capital last month. The army had sent reinforcements to the town but Maj. Plante said the hill in fighting was apparently because "both sides suffered casualties."

The deputy chief of UNAMIR, General Henry Anyokoh, was to meet Friday morning with the Rwandan army chief of staff, General Augustin Bizimungu, to discuss the situation at Kigali Airport, which has been closed since Sunday, and hopes of resuming the evacuation of civilians in battle zones, which has been halted for a week.

U.N. humanitarian flights were suspended after government forces shelled the airport as a U.N. plane was landing. The evacuation of civilians blocked behind enemy lines on both sides was stopped after a convoy was fired in an attack attributed to the rebels.

Maj. Plante said the U.N. was having trouble finding an area inside government zones where they could transfer civilians trying to get out of rebel-controlled sectors.

The site used up to now, Runda, on the main road to Gitarama, was taken by rebels a few days ago, Maj. Plante said.

"We're hoping to start (evacuations) again tomorrow," Maj. Plante said.

U.N. humanitarian agencies such as the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme were to bring in Friday 15 tonnes of special biscuits to help feed 10,000 people for five days.

With Kigali Airport closed, U.N. convoys must use the road from Uganda's Entebbe Airport to bring supplies and humanitarian aid into the capital.

On Thursday, the U.N. Security Council gave the green light for the first phase of its planned deployment of 5,500 peacekeepers to try to staunch Rwanda's bloodbath, in which nearly half a million people have been butchered since the country slipped back into civil war two months ago.

Some of the latest massacre victims were the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Kigali and 12 other clergymen whose deaths were confirmed Thursday by rebels in the first admission by the RPF that its fighters had committed atrocities in the war.

RPF officials said "unknown

elements" had killed the 13 clergymen last week in Kabagwi, 50 kilometres south-west of the capital.

The report came as aid agencies said nine other priests and some 70 civilians had been slaughtered in government-held areas of the capital.

At the Vatican Thursday, Pope John Paul II expressed deep shock at the murders of the clergymen and called for an end to the country's bloodbath.

Interim Rwandan President Theodore Nsindikirubwabo, who arrived in Kinshasa Thursday, was set to fly on to Tunis Friday to attend the 30th summit of the Organisation of African Unity. The Zairean News Agency (AZAP) quoted him as saying the delegation he was leading would be the only one allowed to take part and "there was no other."

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni Thursday denounced killings of civilians by Rwandan rebels who are widely believed to be backed by his government.

Mr. Museveni, whose attack in a public speech was his second rebuke of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) in a week, said his government would not support anyone involved and would help the international community track them down.

His outburst followed the RPF's admission that its own guards had massacred 13 clergymen, including the Roman Catholic Archbishop of

Kigali, in their refuge south of the capital.

The head of the U.N. operation in Rwanda, General Romeo Dallaire, said Friday that little could be done to ease suffering and save lives there without a ceasefire between rebels and government forces.

He said the deployment of more U.N. troops to reinforce the 470 peacekeepers left in Rwanda after most of the 2,500-strong force withdrew in April as carnage engulfed the small central African country was "already weeks late."

Gen. Dallaire said he had received many calls for help, including from the priests who were massacred this week. But with few troops and limited equipment he was powerless to save them from death squads.

"We've had many messages from those in danger, including from the priests, but we just couldn't get through to help them," Gen. Dallaire told a news conference in the Kenyan capital Nairobi.

He stressed that the longer it took the United Nations to send in 5,500 troops planned for Rwanda, the more lives would be lost, and the more people would flee their homes to escape fighting.

"Unless we can get those armies to stop fighting, we're still going to have a lot of problems," Gen. Dallaire said.

He said both sides had started examining ceasefire proposals by the U.N. at talks mediated by his deputy, Brigadier-General Henry Anyokoh.

U.N. commander: Bosnian peace at hand

SARAJEVO (AP) — The U.N. commander in Bosnia said Friday that peace is at hand, but Bosnian Radio reported Serb artillery attacks in the north, just hours before a ceasefire was to take hold.

Referring to a U.N.-brokered truce accord reached between the warring parties in Geneva Wednesday, Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Rose said it was "a comprehensive agreement, wider than a ceasefire. It's keeping the door open to further talks."

"We are seeing the beginning of the end of the war here in Bosnia-Herzegovina," Sir Michael said.

But Bosnian Radio reported that at 4 a.m. Bosnian Serbs started extremely heavy shelling of government-held Gradaca on the western edge of a narrow northern corridor linking Serb holdings in the east and west.

The new four-week ceasefire started at noon (1000 GMT). But U.N. field reports on its observance by the warring parties were not expected before late Friday or early Saturday.

Asking for comment on the chances of the latest truce, Gen. Rose said there was fear that the month will be spent preparing for further conflict.

Numerous Bosnia-wide ceasefire have failed. But recent rapprochement between Bosnian Muslim and Croat forces has halted fighting in much of central and southwestern Bosnia, and a local truce has kept besieged Sarajevo mostly quiet since mid-February.

On Thursday, the U.S. House of Representatives voted 244-178 to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia in what amounted to a slap at President Bill Clinton's foreign policy and a vote of no confidence in the ability of the United Nations to resolve the conflict.

Commenting on the vote, Gen. Rose said, "I think it does raise false hopes in people's minds. It takes a lot more than just being (well) equipped to win a war."

Bosnian Radio said Serbs attacked government defence lines and urban areas of Gradaca. It estimated that more than 800 rounds hit the area.

The radio also said that more than 1,000 rounds fell in the Gradaca region, about 20 kilometres (13 miles) south-west of Gradaca, wounding eight people.

Bosnia's minority Serbs, armed by the Yugoslav Federal Army, launched the war in April 1992 when they rebelled against Croat-Muslim moves to secede from Yugoslavia. More than 200,000 people are dead or missing.

The Serbs, who now control 70 per cent of Bosnia, pushed to Geneva for a permanent ceasefire. But the Muslim-led government feared that a long war would cement Serb battlefield gains before a political settlement could be reached.

China snubs U.S. appeal, carries out nuclear test

BEIJING (AFP) — China conducted an underground nuclear test Friday, ignoring U.S. appeals and courting protest and dismay across the Asia-Pacific region.

The official news agency Xinhua quoted the Foreign Ministry as saying the test had taken place. It gave no details of the location or strength of the test, China's 40th since its first atomic bomb was detonated in 1964 at Lop Nor in the desert in far northwest China's Xinjiang province.

According to Australia — which said it would file an official protest with Beijing — Friday's blast took place at Lop Nor and had a strength of 10 to 40 kilotons of TNT. China's last nuclear test, with a yield of 80 to 90 kilotons, took place at the same site in October 1993.

The U.S. State Department Wednesday had predicted that a test would take place shortly and issued a statement that urged China not to conduct it.

It called on Beijing to join other declared nuclear powers — Britain, France and Russia — in an informal moratorium in place since 1992.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman reiterated Beijing's stand that it has always "exercised great restraint" in conducting nuclear tests, expressing China's understanding of the concern of non-nuclear

weapons states on the question of nuclear testing.

The United States has repeatedly carried out around 950 tests, Russia about 600 and France 200 and Britain 60.

The spokesman again pledged China's support for a comprehensive test ban by 1996, saying this should be a step towards the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

"We call on other nuclear weapon states to give up their policy of nuclear deterrence and commit themselves in explicit terms to complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons."

"We are ready to make continued and unremitting efforts with the international community for the early realisation of this ultimate goal," he said.

Despite China's support for a ban, it has said it will continue testing until the agreement is in place.

In 1992, China went ahead with two tests, the first of one to two megatons on May 21 and the second of less than 10 megatons on Sept. 28.

The two tests preceding Friday's explosion are thought to have been aimed at developing a new type of smaller nuclear head to be loaded on to a multiple warhead missile.

Continued testing, State Department officials said, complicates overall international non-proliferation efforts and discussion on a comprehensive nuclear test ban.

Georgia pins hopes on Russia with peacekeeping mission

TBILISI (AFP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin's decision to send 1,200 Russian peacekeeping troops to the disputed region of Abkhazia was welcomed Friday by Georgian officials, anxious to see the return of 250,000 displaced Georgians to the breakaway republic.

Georgia lost the autonomous republic of Abkhazia, located in the northwest of the republic, to separatist Abkhazian forces in September last year, forcing the quarter million Georgians to leave their homes to escape fierce fighting.

But the arrival of Russian troops, who will police the 48 kilometres (30 miles) "security zone" either side of the Inguri River, the natural frontier between Georgia and Abkhazia, under the terms of a Russian-brokered peace agreement, is a political second best for Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze.

Mr. Shevardnadze signed an unpopular peace agreement with the Abkhazians back in April in the hope of ending a U.N. peacekeeping force to the region but the United Nations has showed little interest in taking on a wider role in the Russian-dominated region.

"It doesn't matter whether the force is from the U.N. or Russia — the important thing is to have peacekeepers on the ground as quickly as possible," said Georgian official Jaba Ioseliani, who heads the Georgian delegation in negotiations with the Abkhazians.

The decision to send Russian

peacekeepers to the region comes during this week's visit by Russian Defence Minister General Pavel Grachev to Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan where he is pushing for Russian military retrenchment in the region.

Grachev is regarded across the Transcaucasus as Russia's "real foreign minister."

Gen. Grachev disclosed Thursday that Armenia has agreed "in principle" to let Russia open a military base there by Aug. 1.

ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted Gen. Grachev as saying the base would be located between Gyumry, where a Russian motorised division is now stationed, and the capital Yerevan, where a motorised regiment is based.

Gen. Grachev said the units stationed at the base would be "fairly powerful" and would include "airborne units that could intervene anywhere very quickly in case of necessity."

A member of the Russian delegation accompanying Gen. Grachev to talks with President Levon Ter-Petrossian said Russia wanted the Armenians to leave them the base for 25 years.

ITAR-TASS said Russia and Armenia had discussed creating a joint anti-aircraft defence system within the framework of a collective security agreement among members of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

All the proposals were expected to be approved by the presidents of the two states, the agency said.

Bacteria eating its way across U.S.

NEW YORK (R) — A "flesh-eating" bacteria that created panic in Europe where it killed at least 11 is now causing alarm across America, with grisly cases reported in at least six states.

It kills up to 2,000 a year in the United States and can mean amputations for those who survive. "It's like a fast-moving gangrene," said Dr. Stephen Baum, chairman of the Department of Medicine at New York's Beth Israel Hospital.

Experts are divided on whether the fast-moving strain is on the rise or just the subject of media hype after a well-publicised outbreak in Britain last month.

Cases of the flesh-devouring form of the Group A streptococcal bacteria have recently been reported in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Michigan and New York. In Britain 15 cases have been reported, with 11 patients dying.

Health officials say it's difficult to say if the number of cases is rising since the disease is not one of those requiring notification.

But some experts say it is clearly on the rise and may pose a risk to certain groups, including diabetics, children with some illnesses and pregnant women.



Brigadier General Marcel Gashini representing governmental forces arrives in an armoured car at the United Nations headquarters in Kigali to negotiate a ceasefire with the Rwandan Patriotic Front (AFP photo)

S. African prisoners granted 6-month remission

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — The minister responsible for South Africa's prisons announced Friday a six-month blanket remission for common-law convicts, following crisis talks on jail riots in which at least two inmates died.

The "across the board" remission was announced by Correctional Services Minister Sipho Mzimela at Modderbee Prison near here, where rioting has killed two inmates and injured 29 inmates and warders.

The announcement followed crisis talks Friday between Mr. Mzimela and President Nelson Mandela as riots by prisoners demanding their freedom spread.

A total of seven prisons in various centres have been affected by a wave of strikes and rioting which followed a call by the South African Prisoners' Organisation for Human Rights (SAPOHR) for "peaceful action" by prisoners, including work stoppages and hunger strikes, to demand political amnesty.

Mr. Mandela also met with Deputy President F.W. de Klerk, Safety and Security Minister for PWV province — the greater Johannesburg area — Jesse Duarte, and SAPOHR leader Golden Miles Bhudu, his spokesman Joel Ntshintzhe said.

Mr. Mzimela was dispatched to Modderbee Prison, where, according to the domestic news agency (SAPA), prison authorities Friday morning fired stun grenades and rubber bullets into the prison, where 500 black and white prisoners went on the rampage for the second day in a row.

SAPA said the authorities, backed by police, had brought the situation back to normality by Friday afternoon.

Like other prisoners across the country, Modderbee inmates are demanding their immediate freedom under a general amnesty Mr. Mandela alluded to on May 10 when he was sworn-in as South Africa's first black president.

They are also demanding the resignation of Mr. Mzimela.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rao defends economic policies

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao Friday defended his sweeping free-market policies that have come under muted criticism from his party as a departure from decades of socialist rhetoric. But the star attraction of a ruling Congress (I) convention which Mr. Rao opened here was Sonia Gandhi, the Italian-born widow of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, fuelling rumours of her possible entry into politics. Mr. Rao, 73, said at the start of the two-day Congress session here that the economic policies pursued by his government since he assumed power in June 1991 were not dictated by international aid agencies. "It is said we have departed from traditional (left-of-centre) policies," Mr. Rao told 1,100 delegates gathered at a sports stadium in the heart of the city. "We are only doing what we think is right." "We take our own decisions," Mr. Rao said in his 27-minute speech.

Catholic shot dead in N. Ireland

BELFAST (R) — A Catholic man who worked as a welder in a Belfast shipyard has been shot dead in a suspected attack by Protestant extremists, police said Friday. The body of the 50-year-old murder victim was found by work colleagues late Thursday in a tanker under construction at Belfast's Harland and Wolff Shipyard. He had been shot in the back. A police spokesman called the attack a "brutal, cowardly, sectarian murder" of a family man going about his daily work. The Belfast shipyard has a mainly Protestant work force and the few Catholic employees have often complained of threats. Meanwhile, two suspected IRA guerrillas arrived in Dublin Thursday after being acquitted by a German court of the murder of a British army officer, Sean Hick and Paul Hughes made no comment when they arrived in Dublin, bolting for the doors after spotting journalists waiting for them at the airport. The two men, guided to the exit by airport police, were bundled into a waiting car and driven off.

Murtaza Bhutto storms police blockades

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — Murtaza Bhutto, estranged brother of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, and a dozen armed guards stormed two police blockades Friday as he began his journey home after 16 years in exile. The 39-year-old Mr. Bhutto, freed on bail last week by an anti-terrorist court, warned of horrible consequences if the government tried again to prevent his homecoming. "I don't know why they blocked my road," he told Reuters. "If the government of Sind (province) is going to make a problem with me there are going to be horrible consequences. I am in no mood to make compromises." Mr. Murtaza, his car escorted by two jeeps of heavily armed guards, ran into a police blockade just moments after leaving his Karachi home, built by his father the former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Filipino kidnappers demand ransom

SAMPIT, Philippines (R) — Muslim extremists who shot 15 hostages have threatened to harm 21 remaining captives in the southern Philippines if the government does not stop rescue efforts, military officials said Friday. "If they see the presence of police and military, the hostages will be harmed," military officials quoted go-between Barahama Salih as saying. Mr. Salih is acting as an intermediary for members of the fundamentalist Abu Sayyaf guerrilla group, who have already killed 15 kidnapped Christians and are still holding 21 on Basilan Island, 950 kilometres south of Manila. Southern Military Command chief Lieutenant General Orlando Soriano ordered a halt to all military movements on Basilan while government negotiators led by island governor Jerry Salapudin met Mr. Salih.

Russia agrees to join NATO military partnership

ISTANBUL (AFP) — Russia agreed Friday to join a NATO military partnership programme in exchange for stronger political links with the alliance.

In Moscow, President Boris Yeltsin announced that Russia would join the Partnership for Peace programme, and that NATO had agreed on a legally-binding protocol on special political relations with Moscow.

"NATO agrees that such a protocol is needed. They shall sign it and we shall sign Partnership for Peace," he told a press conference, adding: "Without a doubt, we shall sign."

In Istanbul, meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev confirmed that Russia would sign the partnership between NATO and the countries of the former Soviet Bloc.

Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana quoted Mr. Kozyrev as saying that he needed one more visit to NATO Headquarters to discuss final details before signing the partnership.

Mr. Kozyrev was speaking at a meeting of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, a forum of NATO countries plus the nations of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

On Thursday, NATO foreign ministers had agreed to meet Russia's request for a closer political relation with the alliance.

But they hedged the offer with conditions — particularly that Russia join the military partnership programme and accept that it could not influence NATO decisions concerning Eastern Europe and elsewhere.

Moscow, under pressure at home from conservatives and nationalists, has argued that as a major nuclear power, it deserves a special status in its relations with NATO and its Partnership for Peace programme.

But Western members of the alliance were unwilling to yield anything resembling a veto power to Russia, notably concerning possible NATO enlargement eastwards or its relations with former Soviet republics.

Until now most NATO countries, notably the United States, had refused to consider signing a special protocol with Moscow.

U.S. officials have said they want NATO-Russia political relations to evolve, rather than be enshrined at the start in a legally-binding document.

The special links offered by NATO to Russia involve such issues as nuclear cooperation, handled until now directly between Washington and Moscow.

NATO described the new principle behind its relations with Moscow as "No vetoes, no surprises."

"In the same way that Russia will maintain its sovereign ability to make its own decisions, so will NATO," the alliance's deputy secretary general, Silvio Balanzino, told a press conference.

The NATO ministers offered broad political consultations with Moscow on a case-by-case basis, and a promise to give the Russians prior notice of potentially controversial decisions.

Some 40 countries were at Friday's meeting here — the 16 NATO countries, 22 nations of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, plus Sweden and Finland.

High on the agenda was the Partnership for Peace programme, which has been joined by 18 of the former Soviet Bloc countries plus Sweden and Finland.

The programme, which includes joint military exercises and peacekeeping operations, was launched in January.

It has twin aims. The first is to make the military activities of NATO and Russia more transparent, thus overcoming a tradition of suspicion developed during the cold war.

The programme is also meant as a halfway house for such former Soviet Bloc countries as Poland and Hungary which want to join NATO as full members.

At Thursday's meeting, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher called the programme "the major strategic development in Europe" since the founding of NATO in 1949.

But Polish Foreign Minister Andrzej Olechowski warned Friday that links between NATO and Russia should not be allowed to overshadow and "marginalise" the efforts of smaller members of the partnership programme.

He called for the rapid and full integration of new Eastern European democracies such as Poland into NATO, in parallel with the strengthening of pan-European political cooperation.

Don't move — my Turkey's loaded

MIAMI (R) — Two Miami men were arrested on charges of smuggling semi-automatic pistols to Haiti inside Turkey's federal agents said. Patrick Loiseau, 24, and Florence Toussaint, 25 bought 110 semi-automatic pistols during a series of shopping trips to a firearms dealership in Pompano Beach, investigators said. They then flew to Haiti on American Airlines, travelling with 20 of the pistols stuffed into their checked luggage, agents said. It was not known why the guns were not detected by the airline.

Schiffer moots 1995 marriage

HAMBURG, Germany (AFP) — Superstar model Claudia Schiffer revealed she and U.S. magician David Copperfield could marry by next year, a news report said Wednesday. In an article to appear in the Thursday edition of the magazine Stern, the top supermodel said she was considering "possibly" marrying her 27-year-old fiancé either in 1995 or 1996.

The 23-year-old German added that marriage "will change nothing" as far as her career was concerned. In the next few years she planned to branch out into films, she said, adding that she had already received three offers "that I like." She attributed her soaring success to hard work and discipline. "Many girls let their standards slip by smoking and drinking alcohol. I never do that. I live healthily," she said, repeating earlier vows that she would never allow herself to be photographed naked.

Questioned on her earnings, she said the sums involved were satisfactory but a "secret" shared only by her lawyer, her parents, her agent and her clients, adding that she contributed to charities, including AIDS organisations.

Can Sondheim slay the beast?

NEW YORK (R) — It's Walt Disney's glitter versus Stephen Sondheim's gloom at this year's Tony Awards. Disney's Beauty And The Beast and Sondheim's Passion, shows representing Broadway at its most commercial and its most intellectual, vie for domination when Broadway's top awards, the 48th annual Tonys, are presented Sunday night in a televised gala. Passion, Sondheim's first Broadway show in more than five years, topped the nominations when they were announced last month with 10, but was closely followed by the Disney company's first foray into Broadway, the multi-million dollar spectacle Beauty And The Beast, based on its hit animated film. It has nine nominations. The two productions are the only real contenders for the coveted Best Musical Award, and not for years have voters in Broadway's version of the Oscars had such a clear-cut choice. And yet, Broadway insiders say that voters are symed. As one critic privately put it: "No one likes either one." Sondheim's dark, pessimistic and controversial show has divided critics and audiences. The story of a dashing military officer who succumbs to the obsessive devotion of a sick, homely but very determined woman has "real songs in the traditional Broadway sense, and is fraught with ideas about what constitutes real love. On the other hand Disney's Beauty And The Beast (the company name is part of the title) is the show everyone loves to hate. Everyone, that is, except the ticket buyers who last week made the show Broadway's top grosser. Variety theatre critic Jeremy Gerard said it has every sign of sharing top box office honours with Phantom Of The Opera for the life of its Broadway run.

Police stumble onto possible Van Gogh painting

COMO, Italy (AFP) — Italian police who searched a car trying to cross the border into Switzerland stumbled upon a painting they said could be a Van Gogh. The 50cm-by-40cm (about 19 inches by 16 inches) painting depicts two cottages by the sea and is signed with the name Van Gogh in red, said police in this northern Italian town. Art historians Giuliano Collina, who examined the work, said it could well be by the Dutch master. He said the colouring appeared to be from the right period and that the Van Goghs were rare. "The two huts are remarkably similar to one of three paintings that he did in Saintes-Marie-De-La-Mer, near Arles in southern France."

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Handwritten text in Arabic script at the bottom of the page.

Christopher: Turkish deal on Iraqi oil is not final yet

ISTANBUL (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said on Friday that Washington backed Turkey's plan to clean an Iraqi oil export pipeline running across its territory, but technical details were still being worked out.

"We have of course agreed in principle that the pipeline could be flushed," he told reporters in Istanbul.

"It is on technical details of the operation we are proceeding with Turkey and at the United Nations. The problem has not been completely resolved," Mr. Christopher added.

He said Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller had stressed the importance of flushing the pipeline when they met on Thursday on the sidelines of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) foreign ministers meeting.

Turkey wants the U.N. Security Council to approve a technical resolution to let it empty, flush and refill the 1,000-kilometres pipeline, disused since Ankara closed it in response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Ankara says its proposals do not violate U.N. trade sanctions against Baghdad because oil from the pipeline would not be sold on the world market and no money would go to Iraq.

Most of the proceeds would go to buying humanitarian goods for the Iraqi people as approved by the United Nations. Some money would flow to a U.N. compensation fund

for victims of the Gulf crisis caused by Iraq's seizure of Kuwait.

"The proceeds of the flushing would be handled in a way consistent with the U.N. resolution," Mr. Christopher said.

Turkey says it owns 3.8 million barrels of the estimated nine to 12 million barrels of crude trapped in the pipeline running from Iraq's Kirkuk oil fields to a Turkish Mediterranean terminal.

The Iraqi news agency said Wednesday that after the loss of billions of dollars, Turkey this month will resume cross-border trade with Iraq that was halted during the Gulf war.

Sadi Calislar, Turkey's charge d'affaires in Baghdad, said commercial activities would resume through the Habur border station sometime in the middle of June, according to the news agency. He did not mention a specific month.

Turkey last month said it planned to do this and would operate within the limits of the U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

Ankara had been forced to halt all trade across the border with Iraq because of an escalation last year in guerrilla activities by Kurdish separatists seeking autonomy from Ankara.

A successful military crackdown on the Kurds and increasing economic hardship in Turkey have prompted Ankara to look into ways to resume trading of goods allowed under the U.N. embargo.

Habur is 1,000 kilometres

southeast of Ankara, and sits on the border with Iraq's northwestern corner.

Mr. Calislar also said Turkish authorities were carrying out intensive contacts with members of the U.N. Security Council "in order to reach a mutual understanding of implementing the agreement concerning the reopening of the Iraqi-Turkish oil pipeline."

Turkey held talks in Baghdad in April about draining the pipeline.

'Kurds want Iraqi unity'

Iraqi Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani pledged Friday that the Kurds would not work against the unity of Iraq, despite his call for a U.N. protectorate.

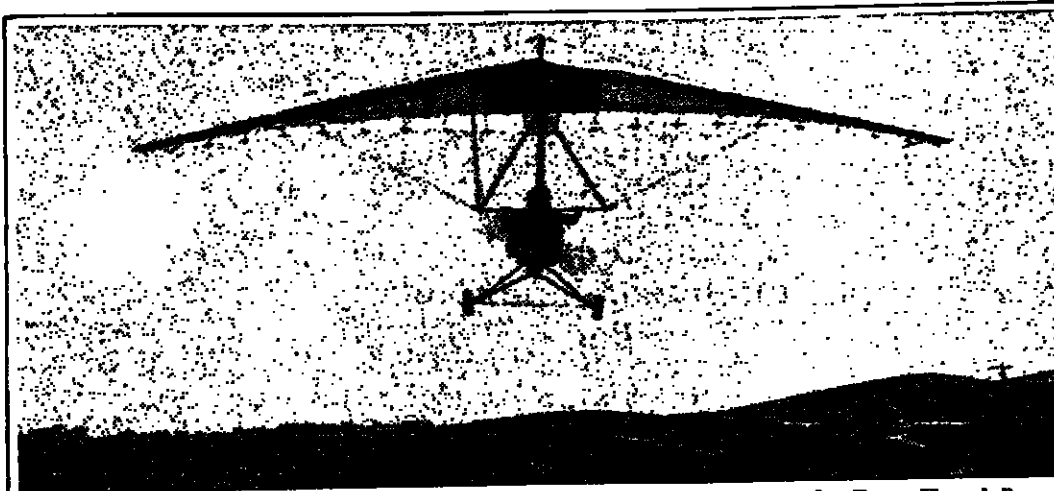
"We endorse and support the unity of the Iraqi people and Iraq's territorial integrity. Our policy in this regard has been firm, consistent and unchanging," he said in a statement received by AFP.

Mr. Barzani said the Kurds aimed for democracy and federalism within a united Iraq. "We strongly believe that the Kurdish issue can best be resolved within the broader Iraqi issue," he said.

On Monday, the head of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) proposed in an interview with foreign journalists that northern Iraq be turned into a U.N. protectorate, following a month of war between rival Kurdish factions.

The "50-50 arrangement" of the KDP sharing power with

Continued on page 5



The microlight of British aviators Ben Ashman and Judy Leden (photo by Rana Hussein)

British aviators give Jordanians a taste of microlight flying

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and dozens of citizens Friday took to the skies over Amman in a thrilling aerial experience that will also help cancer research efforts.

Those who came to Marka airport for a chance at a birds-eye view of the capital were taken on a 15-minute cruise in a microlight aviation vehicle, piloted by the British world champion microlight team of Ben Ashman and Judy Leden.

Mr. Ashman and Ms. Leden landed in Jordan on May 30 after a two-week journey from England on a mission they call "Flight for Life."

Mr. Ashman, who started flying when he was 16, said this volunteer mission was intended to realise the dream of his Jordanian friend Yassin Saudi who died of lung cancer last February.

Mr. Ashman said he built his first hanglider in 1973 out of wood.

"When I was 16 I flew for the first time, and I never

looked back," Mr. Ashman told the Jordan Times.

A flier for 22 years, Mr. Ashman explained that the microlight, a single-engine open-cockpit aircraft weighing 150 kilograms, can carry a payload of 390 kilograms.

On a full tank of gasoline, the microlight can remain in the air for four hours, cruising at 50 miles per hour. It is capable of speeds up to 80 miles and as low as 25 miles per hour.

The wing area on the two-seater craft is 150 square feet, the wing span is 34 feet.

A microlight can cost between JD 10,000 to JD 12,000 in Jordan, exclusive of taxes, said Mr. Ashman.

For Ms. Leden, her best flight was when she soared over the spectacular landscape and colourful rock formations of Wadi Rum.

"The best thing I enjoy is flying over Wadi Rum in the early morning because the light and the scenery are magnificent," said the 35-year-old world champion, who has been flying for 15 years.

"I'll do anything that is open to the elements, feeling the wind on my face and

temperature changes and smelling the air," she said.

She said flying lessons on the microlight included important subjects such as meteorology.

"Weather is the most difficult area and should be examined carefully, and having a good knowledge of reading winds and clouds helps flying tremendously," Ms. Leden said.

According to Ms. Leden and Mr. Ashman, the team is negotiating with local companies on starting a microlight training school for Jordanians in October.

"We've had lots of people who were interested in learning and buying microlights," he said.

Mr. Ashman, Ms. Leden and an accompanying team were received by King Hussein last week and were awarded the Al Hussein Gold Medal for Excellence in appreciation of their humanitarian efforts.

Friday's event included an airshow by the Royal Falcons and was attended by Chief Chamberlain Ra'd Ben Zeid, Prince Mir'ad, Minister of Tourism Mohammad Adwan and hundreds of spectators.

Refugee problem will be solved in final status talks — U.S. official

By Marjorie M. Shalin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The plight of 2.5 million Palestinian refugees will be resolved in the context of "final status talks," Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Daniel Kurtzer said during a Worldnet satellite news briefing with journalists in Amman, East and West Jerusalem this weekend.

Avoiding reference to U.N. Resolution 194, which enshrines the Palestinian refugees' right to choose to return to their lands or receive compensation, the deputy assistant secretary said "we are very supportive of U.N. Resolution 242."

Pressed to make clear the position of the U.S. government on the issue, Mr. Kurtzer said he thought it was "not fruitful to take a position." He added that "it is up to the parties themselves to define the parameters and solutions for problems that they face."

U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, passed on Nov. 22, 1967, makes a single reference to the refugee issue. It "affirms the need for 'achieving a just settlement of the refugee problem.'"

U.N. General Assembly Resolution 194, passed on Dec. 11, 1948, "resolves" that "the

refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbours should be permitted to do so at the earliest practical date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return and for the loss of or damage to property which, under principles of international law or in equity, should be made good by the governments or authorities responsible."

Mr. Kurtzer would not confirm or deny reports that ongoing efforts to create better living and working conditions for the more than 500,000 refugees living in Syria and Lebanon and more than 900,000 refugees living in Jordan were in fact attempts at permanently settling the refugees in the countries that have hosted them since 1948.

"There are many rumours in the region," Mr. Kurtzer said. "We have had a consistent position on this issue. We continue to support Resolution 242 as a basis to resolve this issue."

Asked why the refugee issue was not on the agenda of last week's Jordanian-Israeli-American trilateral talks in Washington, Mr. Kurtzer said that each trilateral meeting dealt with different issues.

Mr. Kurtzer defined re-

fugees as "any people displaced as a result of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Mr. Kurtzer said that refugees fell into three different categories: The 1948 refugees, 1967 displaced peoples, and people falling into the family reunification plan.

The multilateral working group on Palestinian refugees, meeting in Cairo at the sixth session (May 10-12), set up a programme of activities that will improve the living conditions of Palestinian refugees.

The working group, according to Mr. Kurtzer who led the U.S. delegation to the meeting, is designed to "alleviate the worst living conditions."

The programme or agenda of the working group includes and job training, family reunification, child welfare, health conditions as well as economic and social infrastructure.

The working group set up a special fund for programmes in and outside the occupied territories in such areas as housing, paramedics, health services, and job training, Mr. Kurtzer said.

The United States, he said, has pledged \$10 million to these special programmes.

Amman-based United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) official Ismael

(Continued on page 5)

Study establishes feasibility of doubling of pumping Disi water

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A study conducted by a British firm has established the feasibility of pumping drinking water from the Qa Disi aquifer in the south of Jordan, but has warned that the underground reservoir has a limited life span and great caution should be exercised while exploiting it.

An "action plan" drawn up by Haiste/Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick, a London-based international consulting firm, said the government had to take the "strategic decision as to whether to bring the water to Amman in the short term or use it for the possibly greatly expanding needs within the Aqaba/Maan governorates."

Estimates drawn up by experts have said that it could cost up to JD250 million to pump Qa Disi water to Amman through a pipeline —

around JD1 million per kilometre. It was not immediately known whether the estimates were still valid.

The Qa Disi aquifer, which Jordan shares with Saudi Arabia since it straddles the border, is considered as a key reserve for Jordan, where concerns are high over the availability of water over in the next decade, given the relatively rapid growth of population and the depletion of underground resources.

Studies have indicated that Qa Disi could yield up to 120 million cubic metres of safe water every year. The present consumption of Jordan is estimated at more than 800 million cubic metres. Annual rainfall is ten times the actual consumption, but catchment is poor.

Against the backdrop of the continuing strain in political relations caused by the Gulf crisis of 1991, Jordan has not been able to reach a working arrangement with

Saudi Arabia over sharing the Disi water, which is tapped by the Saudis in the Tabuk region.

International experts, drawing conclusions from Jordanian studies as well as interviews with officials, estimate that Saudi Arabia, which began pumping Disi water at a rate of 25 million cubic metres per year in 1983, has increased the rate to 250 million cubic metres.

"At this rate, the reserve will be exhausted in 25 years," noted Natasha Beschorner, author of "Water and Instability in the Middle East."

According to water experts, the estimates that the aquifer would run out in 25 years were made when the Saudis were pumping 250 million cubic metres a year. "But now the rate is closer to 650 million cubic metres a year," said an expert who preferred anonymity.

(Continued on page 3)

Jordanians to be among evacuees from Aden

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — More than 100 Jordanians are expected to be among several hundred foreigners who will be evacuated from Yemen by sea in an operation scheduled to begin on Monday, U.N. officials said Friday.

But the U.N. officials or any Jordanian official could not confirm reports that a group of Jordanian families were being detained in Aden.

"Our information is that the Aden authorities are not imposing any restraints on any foreigner leaving the country," said a senior U.N. official. "We have been told that more than 100 Jordanians would be among those to be evacuated this week."

Jordanian officials also said they had no details of the so-called Jordanian detainees in Aden or any confirmation that there were such detentions at all.

According to the unconfirmed reports, the "detainees" included women and children held separately from men and that the Jordanian government was trying to secure their release.

While no reason was immediately given for the reported detention, the reports suggested that Aden could be "retaliating" for alleged Jordanian help to the Sanaa government in the north.

Jordan has categorically denied charges by southern Yemeni leader Ali Salem Al Beidh that the Kingdom had sent weapons to Sanaa to help the northerners in the civil war that broke out on May 4.

The U.N. officials said a ship had set sail from Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania and was expected to dock at Aden late Sunday. The evacuation operations are expected to begin on Monday.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM), an inter-governmental agency based in Geneva, issued a statement on Friday confirming the departure of the ship for Aden.

The IOM said about 700 foreigners caught up in the Yemeni civil war were expected to be evacuated aboard the vessel to Djibouti across the Gulf of Aden.

In addition to 115 Jordanians, the ship will carry 193 Palestinians, 59 Iraqis, 47 Russians and three Americans, the IOM said. In addition, Egyptians, Cubans, Filipinos, Indians, Slovenians, Sri Lankans, Sudanese and Tunisians will also be among the evacuees, it said.

Jordan and Egypt have agreed to pay for the air fare for their nationals to come home, the Geneva-based agency said.

If the boat arrives on Sunday night, we will try to begin the evacuation on Monday morning if the security conditions permit," an IOM spokeswoman said in Geneva. "There is a lot of shelling."

(Continued on page 5)

COLUMN

Vote by Mandela 'niece' did not count — official

WELLINGTON (AFP) — The vote of a woman who claimed to be South African President Nelson Mandela's niece did not count in April's elections because she had no proof of citizenship, the official who ran special voting here said Friday. Because of time zones and special voting, New Zealand resident Nomzamo Pantoja won worldwide publicity when she voted here and was considered to be the first black woman to have voted in South Africa's first all-race elections. But chief electoral officer Phil Whelan said Ms. Pantoja had no proof of South African citizenship. Mr. Whelan said he had been given instructions by Justice Johan Krieger, chairman of the Electoral Commission, to mark the envelope containing her ballot paper with the words "no voter eligibility documents available." Her vote was the only vote cast in New Zealand with that endorsement. "What happened to that vote, I have no way of knowing but without proof of identity it couldn't have been counted," he said.

Aboriginal officer says police racist

PERTH, Australia (AFP) — One of Western Australia's longest serving aboriginal policemen has quit, claiming the state's force is Australia's most racist. Sergeant Gerry Collard, 48, confirmed Friday he resigned after a 23-year career — alleging that racism had become entrenched among the state's 4,000 police. His allegation was rejected by acting deputy Police Commissioner Les Ayton, who said: "We do not accept that racial problems exist. We have been dealing with that problem."

But Mr. Ayton revealed an investigation was underway into a recent incident in which Sgt. Collard alleged that a white officer had defecated in his coffee cup during a party at the Central Law Courts here. Mr. Ayton said: "At this stage there is no evidence anyone defecated in Collard's cup, save for him saying the cup smelt strongly." Sgt. Collard claims he was subjected to racist taunts and ignored by fellow officers at 10 separate postings during his career.

"They involved what I feel are racist things towards me and my family. I have to conclude from this that the Western Australian force is Australia's most racist," Sgt. Collard is the husband of aboriginal actress Rhonda Collard. She and aboriginal actor Frank Mannup claimed three years ago that they were mistakenly terrorised by officers of the crack police tactical response groups. Police later issued a public apology.

Australia develops sun-protection dye for clothing

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australian scientists announced Friday they had developed a dye for clothes that would protect wearers from the sun's harmful rays. Australians suffer one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, with the New South Wales Cancer Council estimating two in three Australians will get non-melanoma skin cancer in their lifetimes.

Several manufacturers here already sell tee-shirts and other garments with a sun-protection factor on the label, equivalent to the ratings given on sun creams. The new product, Rayosan, is similar to a colourless dye that absorbs ultraviolet radiation and is added to material during the weaving process. It was developed in 1992 after six years' research by the Australian company Sunsafe, in conjunction with Unisearch, the commercial arm of the University of New South Wales, said Bernie Thompson, managing director of Sunsafe. "The chemistry has been around for 30 years, we have just given it a new application," he said. An average adult shirt could be treated with Rayosan for 30 Australian cents (22 U.S. cents) during manufacture, Mr. Thompson said. "We believe that in three years, there will be some 10 million garments treated with Rayosan per annum worldwide and two million in Australia," he said, adding that a recognised standard for sun protective clothing should be developed. "It is the most effective way of increasing sunlight protection ever devised," said Gavin Greenoak, scientific director of the Australian Photobiology Testing Facility, which independently tested the process.

Activists fight over role of foreign organisations in Jordan

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Foreign organisations in Jordan have come under heavy criticism from several political parties and communists over the last six weeks, but former prime minister Ahmad Obeidat countered that "the accusations lack scientific basis and objectivity."

Abdullah Hamoudeh, in an interview with Al Ufuq weekly magazine, Mohammad Subeishi, columnist with Al Dstour and Yagoub Zayadin, head of the Communist Party had all charged the organisations with attempting to brainwash the public into a Western-style democracy through the various workshops conducted by them, especially in the socio-political fields.

Critics consider the assistance of the foreign organisations as attempts of cultural domination and an "intrusion" into Jordanian society. They say that in order for these organisations to conduct research on the country they must gather information on the characteristics of the society and statistics which the critics see as a "theft of Jordanian minds."

Furthermore, the critics charge, these organisations

are politically active since they give assistance to political parties, and that this is a form of indirect financing of parties from overseas, in contradiction with the Political Parties Law.

But other activists do not agree with the charges. They see the foreign organisations as a valuable asset for Jordan and argue that their activities are based on cooperation with their Jordanian counterparts.

Mr. Obeidat, a senator and president of the Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution which is associated with the German Friedrich Nauman Foundation, argued that the charges lack scientific basis and objectivity and attributed the charges to frustration as a result of developments regarding the Palestinian cause and lack of Arab unity in addition to political inter-party competition.

Mr. Obeidat said he believes "this storm will pass," and that in a world of open communications it is healthy to exchange views and experiences with foreign organisations provided it does not touch on higher national security and peoples' interests and is conducted on the basis of equality and in an atmosphere of trust.

Although the charges are

aimed at all foreign organisations in the country, most of the accusations have been targeted at the three German foundations; the Konrad Adenauer, affiliated with the Christian Democrats, the Friedrich Nauman Foundation, affiliated with the Free Democrats and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation of the Social Democrats.

The controversy was triggered by an interview in Al Ufuq magazine two weeks ago following a seminar held by Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

In the interview, titled "Research or Spying Centre?" Mr. Hamoudeh said he considers it acceptable for the organisations to help in the scientific fields, such as agriculture, water and environment, but the socio-political field should be left alone as it is not an issue that needs foreign financing and intervention and does not serve national interests.

"We are offering the foreigners a service but they do not really support us (in their future dealings)," Mr. Hamoudeh said referring to the West's attitude regarding Arab-Israeli relations.

Defenders of the organisations say they are conducting

activities based on cooperation with Jordanian counterparts: training and transfer of experience and general education in the political life and political democracy.

Zakiyah Abu Rishah writing in Al Rai daily June 7 said that some people were still living with the romantic mentality of the 1960s that had become outdated.

Ms. Abu Rishah said that accusing those organisations of being spy centres is some people's way of "exaggerating their patriotic credentials, climbing the official or public ladder, or creating a media uproar."

She said she found it absurd to suggest that Jordanian researchers funded by those organisations would reach different conclusions from others funded by local enterprises.

The director of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Dr. Andrea Gaerber, said that one of the foundation's objectives is to reduce existing prejudice against the Arabs and increase knowledge about the Arab World in Germany. "Germans lack knowledge of the Arab World. We do not find many politicians familiar with this region. This (making them known to Germans) is our role," he said.

Addressing the issue of

legality and charges of indirectly funding local parties. Dr. Gaerber said that although the foundation stands for the Social Democrats it is totally independent. "We do not get funds from the parties. We get state funds or donations from private people," he said.

Furthermore, when one of the foundations wants to conduct a workshop or any other activity, the organisation must get permission from various related government departments and must be represented by a Jordanian organisation before the activity can take place, according to Mr. Obeidat.

Mohammad Subeishi, a lawyer and columnist with Al Dstour daily, wrote on June 4 that German interest in Jordanian democracy had some underlying aim. "Since they can organise these activities (such as workshops) they must be well familiar with the characteristics of the Jordanian society. This is a process of cultural theft and theft of Jordanian minds."

Mr. Subeishi was referring to activities like the June 11 "political party workshop" being organised by Al Urdun Al Jadid and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. The four-day workshop will be attended by 14 political parties including the Islamic Ac-

tion Front and aims to give local parties the opportunity to exchange ideas and experience with their German counterparts, according to organisers.

But some members of political parties say they will not attend the conference because they feel the organisation, Konrad Adenauer, is trying to collect information for its own purposes.

Mr. Zayadin, who is invited to participate in the workshop, said he would not attend and urged the organisations to "save their money and go home."

Dr. Zayadin, who lived in Germany in the 1960s, questioned whether the foundations' "intrusion into Jordanian society" has anything to do with humanitarian reasons.

"Should we be controlled all our lives by them? First Turkey, then Britain and (now) the U.S. We know our interests more than these suspicious foreign organisations which are looking for agents," he said. "Kicking them out is a patriotic job."

According to Hani Hourani, director of Al Urdun Al Jadid, the organisers invited 22 political parties to the workshop and so far 14 parties have confirmed their participation. That in itself, he said, is an answer to such

attacks on the participating foreign foundation.

The workshop will bring two German experts and 10 Jordanian politicians together to discuss the political parties' experience in the two countries.

"The Konrad Adenauer Foundation is an old one," Mr. Hourani said, "and I believe they are giving us good experience in different fields. I can't see why (these organisations) are considered dangerous."

A spokesperson at the German embassy, who preferred not to be named, said that it was up to the Jordanian parties whether to attend the workshop or not. "The organisations do not interfere in their work. The purpose is to share and exchange experience," the spokesperson said.

As the controversy continues, according to Mr. Zayadin, a coordination committee of eight parties he did not name recently sent a memorandum to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, urging him to intervene against the organisations. The reply came from the Ministry of Interior who said the organisations are licensed by the Ministry of Social Development, Mr. Zayadin said.